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MONOGRAPH

UPON

GELSEMINUM:

ITS

THERAPEUTIC AND PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

TOGETHER WITH

ITS USES IN DISEASE.

BY

EDWIN M. HALE, M. D.,

*Associate Editor of the North American Journal of Homœopathy; Author
of a Practical Work on Abortion; Vice President of the
Michigan Homœopathic Institute, &c., &c.*

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY LETTER

BY J. S. DOUGLAS, A. M., M. D.,

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TO

JOHN ELLIS, M. D.,

*Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine in the Western Homœopathic College; and
Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine and Therapeutics in the New York
Homœopathic Medical College; Author of "Avoidable Causes of Disease," etc.,*

DEAR DOCTOR:—

Permit me to dedicate this little treatise to you, in consideration of your eminent services to the Homœopathic cause, as a pioneer of our System in the West, and a successful teacher of Practice and Materia Medica in our Colleges.

Yours, sincerely and respectfully,

E. M. HALE.

PREFACE.

IN writing this Monograph, let me assure the reader that I have aimed to be candid and conscientious in all my statements; and have sought, in making my selections from various medical writers, to let no sentiment of bigotry interfere with a just appreciation of the opinions of others.

I wish the HOMŒOPATHIST to bear in mind, while testing the merits of the medicine upon the healthy and the sick, the three following statements of its qualities and powers:—

1. All the symptoms in the Proving have been obtained from *Mother Tinctures* of various strengths from our own Pharmacies; the *Fluid Extracts* and *Gelsemin* of Tilden; the *Concentrated Tincture* and *Gelsemin* of Keith, and some minor preparations. The quantities used varied from one-tenth to 25 drops of *Mother Tincture*, one-tenth to 5 drops of *Fluid Extract* or *Concentrated Tincture*, and one-tenth to 1 grain of the *Gelsemin*. In but one case can I find that the dilutions above the 1st, caused any pathogenetic symptoms; nor should I consider them of much practical importance if collected. In the proving of drugs we should give enough to produce its peculiar primary characteristic symptoms, and its reactive or secondary symptoms, and with *Gelseminum* this requires the use of material doses.

2. I wish to impress upon the minds of my colleagues the importance, in practice, of the LAW OF DOSE, as explained in my Article on Dose, in the *North American Journal of Homœopathy* of 1861. I firmly believe that a strict adherence to that law is the only way to attain success in the treatment of diseases by medicines. The careful observance of several years convinces me of its truth. For the benefit of those who may not have access to those articles, the general axiom of the law will be thus stated:

(a) *When a group of symptoms, or a pathological state, constituting a disease, resembles the primary symptoms and conditions of a drug, such drug should be administered in the smallest consistent doses,*

(b) *When a group of symptoms, or a pathological state, resembles the secondary effects of a drug, such drug should be administered in quantities as large as is consistent with perfect safety.*

By adhering to the requirements of this law we may obtain the best success of the homœopathic and allopathic systems of medicine. All the veritable cures made by the different schools of medicine, have been made under this law. By virtue of this law we can account for the successful use of all drugs now in use in any school.

3. GELSEMINUM has one peculiarity which but few drugs possess, viz.: It requires widely different doses to affect different constitutions. In this it somewhat resembles Alcohol, Chloroform, Opium, Spigelia and a few others. I have the testimony of the best Homœopathists, the most prominent Eclectics, and the really reliable Allopathists, that there are some organisms so susceptible to its influence that all the primary effects can be induced by a few drops—from 1 to 10—of the Tincture, while others fail to be affected by the most massive doses, one man, known to Prof. King, taking one ounce of good tincture, while a delicate pregnant female felt many of the unpleasant symptoms of the drug from a fractional drop!

No perfectly reliable rule can be given to guide in the selection of the dose, but we may consider an approximation to such a rule to be in this general indication, viz.: Those persons who by constitutional or acquired disease, have lost the healthy vitality and tone of their central nervous systems, are most susceptible to the action of GELSEMINUM.

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INTRODUCTORY LETTER.

MILWAUKEE, Nov. 23, 1861.

E. M. HALE, M. D.:—

Dear Sir:—I have read the sheets of your “MONOGRAPH UPON GELSEMINUM” as they have come from the press, with great satisfaction. Having been the first Homœopath, so far as I know, to make a proving of this precious drug and publish the results of therapeutic applications based upon this proving, I have not unnaturally felt a sort of paternal solicitude for its reputation. That solicitude is relieved and the paternal feeling gratified by the perusal of your work.

My own experience has confirmed a large portion of the pathogenetic indications and therapeutic results which you have collected with so much industry, and I shall be disappointed if your Monograph is not accepted as a boon and a rich addition to our *Materia Medica* by the profession, and if the *Gelseminum* is not soon placed, by general consent, in the category of our most valuable polychrests.

My experience does not perfectly coincide with your remark upon the action of the *Gelseminum* upon the nerves of sensation. It does not, certainly, “cause the numbness, tingling, prickling and crawling sensations” of Aconite, but, in my individual experience, it causes the pains. In my own provings I have frequently experienced a succession of acute, sudden, darting pains evidently running along single nerve-branches in almost every part of the body and limbs, sometimes so sudden and acute as to make me start. At one time a quick succession of these acute sudden pains coursed down the outside and front of the tibia for over half an hour, leaving a line of considerable tenderness marking its track. These pains which seemed clearly neuralgic, gave me the palpable indication for its employment in this disease. And it has certainly been successful. But while it has promptly cured some distressing cases of neuralgia, in which Aconite had been fully tried without benefit, there have occurred some other cases in which it has failed and Aconite has succeeded.

What is the explanation of this? If we suppose that in some cases of this disease there exists a real inflammatory state of the nerve, and in others a mere excess of sensitiveness, the explanation is easy: *Aconite* cures the first, and *Gelseminum* the last.

This topic suggests some other thoughts of practical importance.

You and Dr. Lazarus both remark that you have not been able to elicit such marked symptoms in your provings as were experienced by me. The symptoms particularly referred to are the chills, the reactive febrile heat with headache, and sweat. Dr. L. suggests that I am probably very susceptible to the action of this drug. This remark suggests an important fact which has gradually unfolded

itself in my successive fragmentary provings on some seventy persons, and on myself. The fact, of which I have, at length, become clearly convinced, is this : The *degree of chill*, of *febrile reaction*, of *head-ache*, and of *neuralgic pains*, bear a very uniform ratio to the nervous sensitiveness of the patient. My temperament is decidedly nervous and sensitive. In all the subjects of a nervous, sensitive temperament, the above symptoms are strongly marked. In those of an opposite, insensitive temperament, while the pulse is depressed, and the extremities cool or cold, there is no chill or it is very slight, little or no headache, and slight febrile reaction, and consequently little sweat. In several highly sensitive subjects the chill has been equal to a respectable fit of ague, the reaction and pain of head corresponding, and the sweat profuse. These symptoms have been most strongly developed in some female provers of highly sensitive temperaments, by half-drop doses.

Some persons seem almost insensible to its effects. One man who had taken several drugs for proving, without any marked results, took three teaspoonsful in one day, of the strong tincture, which I know to be good, and reported, the next day, no symptoms.

From all this, the practitioner will draw two highly important practical inferences :

1st. *Gelseminum* is peculiarly adapted to nervous, sensitive temperaments, and hence to women and children.

2d. It requires to be given to those of such a temperament in *much* more attenuated form and *much* smaller doses than to those of opposite temperaments.

In the first class of patients, I have witnessed the most beautiful effects from three or four drops of the 3d dilution in a tumbler of water, in teaspoonful doses. To a patient of the latter class in a febrile attack with distressing chilliness, severe pain of the head, back and limbs, and constant tossing and groaning, I gave a drop of the tincture with the confident expectation of a speedy effect. In this I was disappointed. At the end of half an hour he took two drops, then three, then five, without the least perceptible effect. Confident that the remedy was clearly indicated, I gave him ten drops, when the chill almost instantly ceased, and in about fifteen minutes perspiration commenced, which soon became profuse and continued so for more than twelve hours, when the last remnants of his fever and sweat disappeared together. Only the same effects and to the same degree were experienced in this case from ten drops that I have a hundred times witnessed from one-half and one-fourth drop of the tincture, and from the fractional part of a drop of the first, second and third dilutions.

These facts indicate a rule for administering this drug which I have long regarded as *the* rule for giving all drugs, viz: The degree of sensitiveness of the patient is the only measure of the dose, and these degrees are sufficiently variant to correspond to all the potencies from the mother tincture to the 1000th dilution.

A word in regard to the Homœopathicity of *Gelseminum* in inflammations, as pneumonia, &c., &c. In all local inflammatory diseases, there is a forming or *congestive* stage, characterized by chilliness, depressed pulse, &c. According to my view, to this stage and this only is *Gelseminum* Homœopathic. When this stage is passed and congestion gives place to inflammation, the indication for *Gelseminum* ceases and that for Aconite begins. This is the clear distinction which I make between these two invaluable drugs. I do not, however, mean to exclude Aconite from the congestive stage of inflammatory diseases, but I believe *Gelseminum* still more strongly indicated.

As your work is designed to embody all that is known of this drug, I beg to add to what you have collected, my very recent experience of its effects in two very interesting cases.

CASE 1ST. On the night of the 3d inst., (Nov. 1861) a young married woman, of highly nervous temperament, and seven months pregnant with her first child, was attacked with violent convulsions, frequently repeated, and soon followed with complete unconsciousness and the wildest delirium.

This state of things continued till the afternoon of the 5th, when she was delivered of a dead fetus. The convulsions now ceased, but she continued in a state of wild delirium, incessantly talking and without a moment of sleep for some three days and nights. During the next half day her delirium was somewhat more subdued, the incessant talk less furious, and she seemed to sleep once or twice for a minute or two. During all this time, the arterial action was inclined to be excessive, as in acute inflammatory disease, though no such state could be detected. This excessive action was successfully controlled by the frequent use of Aconite.

I now resolved to try the effect of *Gelseminum*. She accordingly took teaspoonful doses of a mixture of three drops, 3d dilution in one-half a tumbler of water. During the night, after two or three doses, she had three sleeps of from one to two hours, and in the morning gave the first evidence of consciousness. This, however, was of short duration. A few minutes of mental effort seemed to exhaust the power of the brain and she relapsed into wakeful delirium. But whenever she has become delirious and sleepless, the *Gelseminum*, in the above doses, has uniformly and promptly procured quietness and sleep. The intelligent nurse has come to rely implicitly upon it whenever needed. The patient has steadily improved from the above date to the present, Nov. 23d, though it has been necessary to give occasional intermediate doses of Aconite, which alone has controlled the excessive arterial activity. She now leaves her room, though her mind is weak and still wanders when too long excited.

In this case it is evident that *Gelseminum* has uniformly and perfectly succeeded in quieting excessive nervous irritability and delirium and procuring sleep, where Aconite, Belladonna, Chamomilla, Coffea, Hyoscyamus, Ignatia, Pulsatilla, Stramonium, &c., had proved powerless.

CASE 2ND. On the 5th inst. I was called to see a lady eight months pregnant, the mother of four children, the two last of which had been born at about the same period of eight months. All her labors had been exceedingly tedious, from three to six or seven days, apparently from the great rigidity and unyieldingness of the os uteri. In her last confinement she had violent puerperal convulsions. When I was called on the 5th she had had regular labor pains for three days, but, accustomed to protracted labors, she had not thought it time to send for me till she was seized with a convulsion,

which was repeated before my arrival. I found the pains quite active and frequent, but on making an examination not the least result was observable. The os uteri was not in the least developed, but rigid and perfectly closed.

With the vivid recollection of her last two labors at the same period of eight months, their extreme tediousness, the violent and alarming convulsions which now bid fair to be continued through a labor of days—perhaps many days; of all the exhaustive appliances formerly employed to subdue the convulsions and to stop or hasten the premature labor, with nearly all my time necessarily occupied with the case above related, no one will marvel at my extreme anxiety and perplexity. On reflection, as all other known means had, on the former occasions, proved so fruitless, I resolved to try the effect of *Gelseminum*. It might, by its great sedative power, subdue the spasms; it might allay and put a stop to the premature labor pains. If it failed of accomplishing these objects, it might relax the rigidity of the os uteri and thus facilitate the labor. She was not of a nervous, but a bilious temperament. I gave five drops of the tincture, directing it to be repeated after each spasm, or if no spasm occurred, every hour unless the pains were abated or she experienced some of the characteristic symptoms of the drug. After three doses I saw her. No more spasms had occurred. The pains were unchanged. Directed one drop every two hours. Six hours after, the pains were nearly the same, but a very palpable change was effected in the state of the os uteri, which was now soft, relaxed and sufficiently dilated to admit the finger easily. I had now no doubt that the labor would go on, and from the much more rapid relaxation of the os uteri than on former occasions, would be much less tedious. I left to call again in six or eight hours, or to be notified if needed sooner. At my next visit the pains were much less frequent and much lighter. No symptoms from the drug. Continued one drop every four hours. On the following day, the pains had altogether ceased and the patient was feeling entirely comfortable. Three days since she was in her usual good health and attending to her usual duties, since which, (Nov. 23,) I have not heard from her.

Others can draw their own inferences from this case, and I will not comment upon it except to say, it is obvious that *Gelseminum* accomplished in it what every hitherto known means had entirely failed to effect on two precisely similar occasions with the same patient.

I have thus, my dear sir, protracted these remarks, knowing that it was your design to make your work exhaustive—to collect all that is at present known of this truly precious drug, and I have extreme pleasure in saying that I think you have ably accomplished what you have so praiseworthily undertaken. I do not mean to be understood that I think the wealth of this drug is exhausted by our present provings and therapeutic experience. On the other hand, one of the great merits of your work is, that while it has furnished the profession all that is at present known, it so clearly indicates just what we have yet to learn in regard to it.

In conclusion, I cannot doubt that the general diffusion of your monograph among the profession will lead others to make more extended and cautious provings, especially with the higher dilutions, and you will have the satisfaction of seeing the drug on which you have expended so much labor, and largely in consequence of that labor, universally recognized as one of the most valuable of our *Materia Medica*.

Yours truly,

J. S. DOUGLAS.

GELSEMINUM SEMPERVIRENS.

NAT. ORD. *Apocynaceæ.*

SEX. SYST. *Pentandria Digynia.*

The Root is the officinal part, and yields its virtues to water or alcohol.

Description.—This plant is likewise known by the name of *Field Jessamine*, *Yellow Jessamine*, *Woodbine*; it is the *Bignonia Sempervirens* of Linnæus, and the *Gelseminum nitidum* of Michaux and Pursh; it is named the *Gelseminum nitidum* by some authors, by what authority I cannot imagine. It has a twisting, smooth, glabrous *stem*, with opposite, perennial lanceolate, entire *leaves*, which are dark above, pale beneath, and which stand on short petioles. The *flowers* are yellow, having an agreeable but rather narcotic odor, and stand on axillary peduncles. The *Calyx* is very small, with five sepals; the *Corolla* is funnel-form with a spreading border, and five lobes nearly equal, *Stamens* five, *Pistils* two, *Capsule* two-celled, compressed, flat, two-partible. Seeds flat, and attached to the margins of the valves. The berries are black.

This is one of the most beautiful climbing plants of our Southern States, ascending lofty trees, and forming festoons from one tree to another, and in its flowering season, in the early spring, scenting the atmosphere with its delicious odor. On account of its gorgeous yellow flowers, and the rich perfume which they impart, as well as the deep shade it affords, it is extensively cultivated in the gardens of the South as an ornamental vine. It grows in the North as an exotic. The author has one growing in his office. It begins to blossom about the first of March, and its blossoming season lasts until the end of May. The root is several feet in length, with scattered fibres, and varies from two to three lines in diameter, to nearly two inches. The internal part of the root is woody, and of a light yellowish color, the external part or bark, in which the medicinal virtues are said principally to reside, is of a light snuff color, and from half a line to three lines in thickness.

A vine, the root of which is sometimes gathered for the *Gelseminum*, resembles it very much in appearance, though it is of a lighter color, and the outer bark is covered with white specks or marks somewhat similar to those on young cherry or peach limbs, and the lower part of old vines become rough and have small tendrils that fasten upon the bark of trees, and which are never seen on the *Gelseminum*. The bark of the vine is also more brittle, and the leaves are always on long footstalks, which are opposite, at the end of which are two opposite leaves, almost exactly resembling the leaf of the *Aristolochia Serpentaria*. The root is almost white, very tough, strait, and about the same length of the medicinal root, and has a slightly bitter, disagreeable nauseous taste. I never saw any of the flowers, though they are said to resemble the others in shape, but are

snowy white, with a slight unpleasant odor. The vine is called the *White Poison Vine* and *White Jessamine*.

I am thus particular in giving a correct description of this plant, in order that there shall be no mistake about the matter. Homœopathic Pharmacutists, above all others, should be scrupulously careful to prepare the medicines we use, in their utmost purity. The Gelseminum, more than any other vegetable remedy, demands the most careful preparation. It is not known to me whether the leaves, stem, or flowers, possess any medicinal qualities. I cannot learn that any tincture has ever been prepared from other parts than the root. But I should suppose from analogy that they possess as much comparative power, as the leaves &c., of Aconite, or Veratrum Viride.

MEDICAL HISTORY.

Doctor C. H. Cleveland, of Cincinnati, has kindly favored me with the medical history of the Gelseminum, going back to a remote time.

"DODONÆUS wrote about the White Gelseminum under the name of 'Apiana.' Martholus wrote also about the plant under the name of 'Gelsaminum,' and also called it the '*Jassaminum Vulgatus flore albo*.'" CASPAR BAUBINO, calls it the "white flowered Jessany." JOHN QUINCY, author of the "Complete English Dispensatory," published about two hundred years ago, also speaks of the White Jessamine."

(This would seem to show that the Yellow Jessamine was not known in the old world. A plant possessing such remarkable properties could otherwise not fail of notice. The White Jessamine is found in America, but what its medical qualities are, save that it is poisonous, I cannot ascertain from any authority to which I have access.)

"A very good series of reference to the modern literature of the Yellow Jessamine will be found on page 1415 of the last edition of the U. S. Dispensatory. My articles in the *Charleston Medical Journal*, 1857, page 180, and in the *American Medical Gazette*, Vol. IV, page 154, will give all my views of its action. I am not positive, but feel quite sure, that the Yellow Jessamine is a native only of the Southern States."

Dr. B. L. Hill, then Professor of Surgery in the Cleveland Homœopathic College, was, in 1856, the first homœopathist to use and recommend it. His previous connection with the Eclectic School as Professor of Surgery in the Cincinnati Eclectic College, probably led to its use by him. The first notice of it in Homœopathic literature was made by the late JAMES W. METCALF, M. D., of New York, in Vol. 3 of the *North American Journal of Homœopathy*. Dr. J. S. Douglas noticed the drug in an appendix to Dr. Hill's "Domestic Practice," about the same time that the attention of the profession was called to it by myself in the above named *Journal*. Dr. Douglas soon followed by a fragmentary, but suggestive proving, in the first volume of the *United States Journal of Homœopathy*. About the same time I wrote a lengthy article on the "Use of Gelseminum in Fevers," for the forthcoming numbers of "Peters' Principles and Practice of Homœopathic Medicine," but at this date it has not yet appeared. Dr. Peters has however noticed the remedy in Vol. 1, No. 3, page 212, of that work.

Dr. J. C. Morgan, of Illinois, communicated a partial proving to Dr. Shipman, who published it in the April number, 1861, of his *Journal of Materia Medica*.

VARIOUS PREPARATIONS.

KING in his Dispensatory only mentions one official preparation, the *Tinctura Gelsemini*. The U. S. Dispensatory mentions only a tincture, but is very indefinite about its preparation, viz: "macerate for two weeks the fresh bark of the root [how much?] well bruised in diluted alcohol, and then expressing and filtering. The dose is from ten to fifty drops [!] every hour or two. * * * Dr. Jenkins gives from half a teaspoonful to three times the quantity." We are not told *how* strong this tincture is, but it must have been very weak, or none of "Dr. Jenkins'" patients would have been left to "tell the tale." For although some persons seem to possess a strange immunity from its effects, I doubt whether many could bear such doses safely.

KING.—Dr. King, in his Dispensatory gives the following directions for the tincture:—"Fresh root of Yellow Jessamine, cut into small pieces *eight ounces*; alcohol *two pints*; macerate fourteen days, express and filter. This forms a saturated tincture, beautifully tinged with violet. It has a peculiar odor, somewhat resembling that of new honey, and a faint peculiar, not unpleasant taste. Dose, from ten drops to a fluid drachm." This is probably the manner in which our Homœopathic Mother Tincture is prepared, as it resembles the above very nearly.

Owing to the fact that the tincture is sometimes very uncertain in its action, some *writers* assert that the active principle of the plant must be *volatile*. Dr. T. C. Miller, who is good authority, says: "The best preparation, in my opinion, is the tincture, *kept in a black bottle*, or a bottle covered with black paper, to insure it against the *action of light*. In summer it should be kept in a cool cellar. With these precautions it will retain its strength." This statement is substantiated by others, that *light* and heat injure the tincture. This should be a hint to Homœopathic physicians and Pharmacutists who wish to use or sell a reliable preparation of this medicine, for it would be a lamentable error to give attenuated doses of an inert tincture.

The best Homœopathic preparation of *Gelseminum* I have ever used, was from the Pharmacy of Dr. E. A. Lodge, of Detroit. He is scrupulously careful to keep a fresh article on hand. His preparations of *Gelseminin* are quite reliable.

Halsey & King of Chicago, and Wm. Radde of New York and Philadelphia, undoubtedly aim to keep only reliable articles. But I cannot refrain from urging our Pharmacutists to sell only those preparations of this drug which they can conscientiously recommend.

I propose as a reliable test, that all Homœopathic Physicians and Pharmacutists should, before administering or selling any preparation of *Gelseminum*, either test its effects upon themselves or upon some animal. There is so little danger attending its trial in sufficient doses to cause prominent pathogenetic symptoms, and the absolute certainty that, if a good article, it *will* manifest its effects, unless some idiosyncrasy of the prover militate against it, that there is no excuse for selling or using an uncertain or unreliable article. Let the Homœopathist bear in mind two important facts: 1st, that the dried root is, if not absolutely inert, very nearly so. 2d, that light and heat injure the tincture, and very probably all the powdered preparations.

Authorities.

I have drawn freely from the writers of the various schools of medicine, giving their opinions, theoretical and therapeutical deductions, leaving it to the discriminating physician to draw his own conclusions of the real value of their assertions or suggestions; and to apply to them the infallible test of pathological or pathogenetic provings; or its uses in disease. I wish my own opinions, and clinical remarks, to be judged by the same standard, but in a spirit of candor and honest intention.

I here record my obligations and sincere thanks to the following physicians for valuable contributions, manuscripts, pamphlets, &c. :—

HOMŒOPATHIC.

Dr. J. S. Douglas,	of	Milwaukee, Wis.
Dr. R. Ludlam,	"	Chicago, Ills.
Dr. J. C. Morgan,	"	Lebanon, "
Dr. F. L. Vincent,	"	Campaign, La.
Dr. W. H. Holcomb,	"	Waterproof, "
Dr. M. E. Lazarus,	"	Columbus, Ga.
Dr. D. W. Rodgers,	"	Quincy, Mich.
Dr. H. M. White,	"	Coldwater. "
Drs. Williams, Murch and Smith, (students and provers.)		

ELECTIC, &c.

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Mr. B. Keith,	New York City,
Dr. John King,	Cincinnati, O,
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TOXICOLOGICAL EFFECTS.

There are but few cases of fatal poisoning recorded of *Gelseminum*; and it is to be regretted that no post-mortem examination was made. We do not therefore know what pathological changes it produces in the human body.

CASE 1. This is said by King to be the first known case of poisoning by *Gelseminum*; and that by it, the plant was first brought into notice. "A planter on the Mississippi, while laboring under a severe attack of bilious fever, which resisted all the usual remedies, sent a servant into his garden to procure a certain medicinal root and prepare an infusion of it for him to drink. The servant by mistake collected another root, (the Yellow Jessamine,) and gave an infusion of it to his master who, shortly after swallowing some of it, was seized with the following—

Symptoms. Complete loss of muscular power, was unable to move a limb, or even to raise his eyelids, although he could hear, and was cognizant of circumstances transpiring around him. His friends, greatly alarmed, collected around him watching the result with much anxiety, and expecting every minute to see him breathe his last. After some hours he gradually recovered himself, and was astonished to find that his fever had left him." (*King's Disp.*)

Remarks. In this case no treatment was reported to have been given, yet the man recovered perfectly, besides being rid of an obstinate fever. No one can compare the above symptoms with those of Catalepsy, without remarking the striking resemblance. It ought to prove a specific for that malady.

CASE 2. Several deck hands of a steamer on the Mississippi river, tapped a barrel of Tincture Gelsemium which they supposed to be whiskey. All who drank of it were more or less affected. But of three men who had partaken freely, having swallowed about a pint each, two died. I have the complete details of the above cases from Mr. Hill who was present. The symptoms were about the same as in Case 1. The other was saved by the employment of Quinine and Capsicum in large doses, aided by external stimulation.

It is deeply to be regretted by the profession that the men thus poisoned were not examined. Such examination by competent pathologists would have cleared up forever the mystery of the action of this wonderful drug.

CASE 3. A lady aged 24, suffering from Typhoid Pneumonia, took 10 drops of Tincture Gelsemium; in an hour 11 more; and in two hours after 12 drops. Shortly afterwards appeared the following—

Symptoms. She could not see any one in the room, although persons stood close by the bed. Her eyes were wide open; pupils dilated, pulse regular and full, skin natural and healthy in color, feet and hands cold. She seemed to know all that was going on; described her symptoms; said she felt faint; felt as though her blood had ceased circulating and that her head felt very light.

Treatment. She was given a teaspoonful of Aromatic spirits of Ammonia in water, and repeated in fifteen minutes. At the expiration of half an hour she said she felt perfectly well, complained of no pain whatever; the fever was subdued, and in four days she was able to rise from her bed. (*Dr. Lungen, of Franklin, N. C.*)

CASE 4. Dr. B——, a practising physician in one of the upper counties of Georgia, while suffering from a severe nervous toothache, took what he *guessed* was about 30 drops of the Tincture.

Symptoms. In ten minutes he said, "I cannot see you." His eyes were wide open, pupil dilated; pulse 80 or 90. He attempted to walk, and staggered like one intoxicated. (He was immediately given a dose of Ipecac, as an emetic). In a few moments there was partial paralysis of the glottis, tongue and eyelids. He became very sick and vomited but little (from the Ipecac). He wrote with a pencil on paper, for he could not *speak*, "I am very sick: wish to vomit but cannot." In a few moments he vomited, but the discharge passed *through the nostrils*. His hands and feet became icy cold, pulse regular 80 or 90.

Treatment. Warm bricks were applied to his feet, his hands and ankles were chafed; strong Aqua ammonia was placed to his nose and upon his chest. In an hour he was able to speak. The next day he complained of being very faint; took aromatic spirits of Ammonia, and the next day rode home, a distance of twenty-three miles. It is needless to say the toothache left him.

[*Ib.*]

CASE 5. A convict in the N. H. State prison swallowed one-and-a-half ounces of the fluid extract, with intent to poison himself. The effect was, great prostration, nausea and vomiting, dilated pupils, inability to speak or move, coldness of the surface, feeble pulse, &c. The effects passed off, with proper antidotes, in about 24 hours. (*Dr. Pattee, in Tilden's Journal.*)

Remark. In this case we observe nausea and vomiting, which is a rare effect of the drug.

ANTIDOTES.

Unless the person is seen immediately after the drug is taken Emetics, it is said, are not safe or advisable, on account of the additional prostration they may cause. In fact, none but the most stimulating

emetic substances would have any effect upon a stomach paralyzed by a large dose of Gelseminum. Probably the best emetic remedy is mustard, a teaspoonful of the ground seed in half a cup of warm water.

Ammonia is a valuable antidote to the prostrating effects of the drug, as also are Quinine, Capsicum, and Brandy. With these Dr. F. D. Hill saved several persons from death, while others, treated with emetics and purgatives, died.

Dr. King states that a piece of Turks Island salt (common coarse salt) about the size of a pea, chewed and swallowed, will produce a restoration in five or ten minutes in many instances. A spoonful of salt and water may be given, if the patient is too weak or insensible to chew it. Electro-Magnetism is a powerful antidote to its paralyzing influence. In bad cases it should be perseveringly used. A strong preparation of *Xanthoxylum* (Prickly Ash) would prove a reliable stimulant antidote.

The Homœopathic antidotes against the primary symptoms of prostration, &c., are *Aconite*, *Veratrum viride*, *Veratrum album*, *Arsenicum album*, *Secale*, *Chloroform*, *Carbo vegetabilis* and *China*.

Against its specific effects upon the head and eyes, *Opium*, *Belladonna*, *Stramonium*, *Hyoscyamus*, *Agaricus* and *Spigelia* are indicated in small quantities.

The proper antidotes to its secondary symptoms, convulsive, spinal, &c., are *Nux vomica*, *Ignatia*, *Æsculus glabra*, *Cuprum*, *Agaricus*, and *Æthusa*. The warm bath, mustard to the extremities, and cool applications to the head and spine would be valuable palliative means.

EFFECTS UPON DOGS.

The animal experimented upon was a small spaniel, apparently in good health. I am much indebted to my pupils, Drs. C. A. Williams and L. F. Smith for their careful record of the symptoms, &c., in the case.

At 9 A. M. gave $\frac{1}{2}$ dram of Tilden's Fluid Extract. No symptoms appearing at the expiration of 30 minutes, gave a similar quantity. In about 15 minutes noticed a slight twitching of the eyelids; some dilatation of the pupils, *increased* action of the heart, 120 per minute. A few minutes more and the muscles of the face, head and neck were affected with twitching; the heart beat with irregular force, now hard and full, then very weak. The dog became giddy and staggered; there was drowsiness or closure of the lids,—probably a kind of paralysis of the lids,—with occasional starting as if frightened. In this state of stupor he remained about 30 minutes.

At 10:30 $1\frac{1}{2}$ drams was given. In less than *five* minutes spasmodic contractions of nearly all the muscles of the body took place. The limbs were drawn spasmodically against the body; the head drawn forcibly to one side. The *left* side seemed most affected. There was also labored breathing, like the inspirations in asthma; trembling of the whole body, especially the limbs, great dilatation of the pupils obliterating the iris; heart's beat 140. Then came clonic opisthotonus. All this time the eyes were closed and the animal seemed drowsy and stupid; tongue appeared of a bright red, with purple tint. These symptoms gradually ceased until 12 o'clock, when 2 drams more were administered. This was immediately followed by great tremor of the whole body. He walked backward for some distance, staggering from side to side. In about 15 minutes he sank into a stupid condition, with nodding and inabil-

ity of opening the eyes. For the next 15 minutes this state was continued with occasional jactitation of the muscles.

At 12:30 One dram was given, followed by a renewal of the spasms. The whole body and limbs became severely convulsed; complete blindness with greatly dilated pupils; tongue a dark purple and hanging from the mouth. At this time, (about 30 minutes after the 4th dose,) the pupils *contracted* very much [!] with continual loss of sight; then nausea and efforts to vomit, for the first time. Heart's action 120; respirations 90 per minute! After a few moments he became quiet, when 30 drops were given. In about five minutes the muscles of the thorax *seemed* entirely paralyzed, or else the lungs became partially paralyzed; respiration seemed only carried on by violent efforts of the abdominal muscles. The heart's action was very rapid, weak and fluttering, and could not be counted. He tried to walk, but the posterior extremities were dragged—paralyzed. Involuntary urination. He fell down in a minute or two, and there was entire paralysis of the whole voluntary muscular system. He lay completely motionless; a leg lifted fell dead and heavy. Respiration very slow and labored; long, sighing inspirations. In this paralyzed state he remained about 20 minutes, when, at 1:30, another dose of 30 drops was given, followed by gasping for breath—seemed to be dying, but the heart's action was so rapid it could not be counted. For the next half hour the respiration was alternately gasping and stertorous, then it became natural, but the blindness and paralysis continued about an hour.

At 4 o'clock the animal seemed lively and well! This experiment presents several peculiarities worthy of notice—

1st. The remarkably *rapid* action of the drug. In some instances prominent effects were noticed a minute or two after the medicine had been taken into the stomach. I have frequently noticed this peculiarity of Gelseminum, in the human subject. One case in particular; in which I gave 5 drops of the Fluid Extract to a young woman laboring under an attack of pneumonia. In less than *two minutes* she exclaimed—"How queer I feel—how dark it seems." The pupils were somewhat dilated, and there was partial blindness. But few other drugs act with equal rapidity.

2nd. The temperature of the body was at no time below the natural point! This fact somewhat surprised me. I had expected to see coldness of the extremities, as in the human subject under similar circumstances. Perhaps the poison was not carried far enough to cause the necessary prostration.

3d. The constantly excited state of the heart. I requested my pupils to carefully note the rate and other peculiarities of the heart's action, but they assert that at no time was it below the normal standard. In all our provings, and in all the records of its effects on man, we have found a decided decrease of the action of the organ of circulation. From what cause proceeded the greatly increased action of that organ in this case I cannot fully determine. Whether the quantity administered, or whether the difference in the physiological system of the canine species, was the cause of this unexpected action, I leave for future experiments to determine. May it not be that owing to the large doses given, the primary effects could not appear? We know that in the case of Quinine, a *large* dose will induce *collapse* without any primary stimulation. All the other symptoms exhibited by this animal, are confirmatory of the provings and collected symptoms caused by this medicine in man.

We here have an array of spasmodic and paralytic symptoms truly interesting. A drug capable of arousing into action the voluntary nerves in such a manner, cannot fail to prove, when once its true sphere of action is understood, one of the most valuable remedies which we possess. But it will need years of careful investigation, such as has been bestowed upon *Aconite*, in order to render its properties perfectly understood.

In the second experiment made on the same animal, two days after the first, about eight drams, in all, were administered. One dram every hour was given. During the first seven hours the symptoms were very similar to those obtained on the first trial; they need not therefore be repeated here. But the last hour

of the animal's life was accompanied by symptoms worthy of especial notice.

All the symptoms of general muscular prostration, and paralysis of the voluntary motor nerves had obtained. The condition then changed, and from a state of partial insensibility, the dog became for a moment very furious, and seemed to regain, during that brief time, all its strength. It ran across the room; leaped upon the lounge; over a chair; ran howling under a table, and glared out at us with bloodshot and protruded eyes.

This period of transient excitement as suddenly subsided, and he became convulsed, with heavy, stertorous breathing, dull and expressionless eyes, with some rigidity of the limbs. The beating of the heart was very feeble and slow, scarcely perceptible. The respirations became more and more stertorous, finally rapid and short, and the animal died without any struggle or convulsion. So prominent were the apoplectic symptoms that I predicted that we should find a lesion of some blood vessels, and extravasation, in some portion of the brain. The post mortem proved the correctness of my diagnosis, as the pathological appearances hereafter given, will show.

The peculiar symptoms manifested by this animal just before death, are well worth the careful study of the physiologist. How can we account for the sudden change from partial paralysis and muscular prostration, to unnatural strength and fury? Did the sudden and furious congestion of blood to the brain so excite its vital actions that it sent down a tremendous influence to the spinal cord, sufficient to arouse it from its condition of paralytic torpor?

It reminded me of what I have often witnessed in those pernicious congestive typhoid fevers of the West, in which the patient, after lying for days in a state of great prostration and insensibility, becomes suddenly aroused and furiously maniacal, for a few minutes or hours, and then sinks into a comatose state from which he never arouses.

Should I meet again with such a case, I should test the value of Gelseminum, for if any remedy is capable of removing such morbid condition, it is this.

PATHOLOGICAL APPEARANCES.

Besides Dr. Miller and myself I cannot ascertain that any physician has noted the pathological appearances caused by Gelseminum, and those appearances have only been noticed in animals. Although several authenticated cases are on record of this drug proving fatal to man, no post mortem has, in such cases been had, to my knowledge. But the appearances found in animals are valuable, and may lead us to important and reliable conclusions.

Dr. MILLER says: "In cases where death was not caused immediately, the principal manifestation was a suspension of the function of the nerves, and a derangement of the circulation. In those cases where death occurred speedily it changed the medullary structure of the brain, and destroyed the vitality of the blood in the vessels and in the lungs. Its action on the blood was to produce a manifest derangement of its structure." (*College Journal Vol. 4, No. 3.*)

"On dissection of animals killed by large doses of Gelseminum, I observed a constant hyperæmia of the lungs and brain; the right part of the heart, and large vessels, being distended with blood, and considerable congestion of the capillaries in the mucous coat of the intestines. The muscular fibres of the heart were dark, red, and soft. The blood within the ventricles was fluid. The substance of, and membrane covering the spinal marrow, were filled with blood."

"The pathological appearances caused by Gelseminum correspond with those caused by apoplexy and asphyxia, i. e., extravasations from the vessels of the brain and its membranes, and in the heart and lungs."

"The application of the Tincture to wounds in the legs of frogs caused tetanic spasms. (*College Journal, ibid.*)

The appearances noted by Dr. Miller very nearly accord with those noticed by me in case of the Spaniel, before mentioned.

I found the brain in a high state of hyperæmia. *Three large drops of dark colored blood were found effused under the arachnoid membrane.* Taking this fact in connection with the last symptoms of the dog, and we have a complete picture of the sub-arachnoid form of apoplexy as described by PRUSS.

I did not notice any changes in the medullary structure of the brain, but the substance and membranes of the spinal cord were *congested*.

The lungs were in a state of active hyperæmia, and much heavier than natural.

The right side of the heart was filled with dark coagulated blood. In the left side of the heart some thin watery blood was found.

The substance of the heart presented no unnatural appearances, except a slight unnatural *redness*.

Not having a suitable microscope I could not carry the examination as far as I wished to do. Other important changes might have, by its use, been discovered.

The pathological appearances above mentioned give us very valuable indications for the use of this remedy in disease. It tells in unmistakable language of the importance of noting the morbid changes caused by fatal drugs. We know now that *Gelseminum* causes a true apoplexy, and that the external symptoms were a real index of the lesions going on within the brain.

The fact of its causing congestion of the spinal cord and its membranes, is worth all the theoretical deductions in the world, when not based upon actual observation of such pathological changes.

THERAPEUTICAL DEDUCTIONS.

In a general manner we can conclude that GELSEMINUM will prove most useful:—

1st. In many abnormal conditions of the nerves of motion, and of those organs which are supplied most freely by those nerves. It is Homœopathic to all debilitated conditions of the voluntary nervous system, also to those conditions of perverted nervous action, such as trembling jactitations, twitching of single muscles, choreas, spasms, (clonic) painful cramps, and contractions of various muscles, &c.

2d. To congestive conditions of the various organs of the body, especially the *head*. Congestions of the lungs and uterus are more readily controlled by *Veratrum viride*, *Tartar emetic* and *Aconite*.

3d. To those remote and secondary affections of the organs of digestion; to secondary affections of the liver, spleen, kidneys and generative organs, all of which must have been preceded by some malady of the nervous centres.

GENERAL EFFECTS,

ON THE NERVOUS SYSTEM—*Nerves of sensation.*

Gelseminum does not exert the decided and specific effect upon the nerves of sensation that we witness from the effects of *Aconite*. It

causes none of the numbness, tingling, prickling and crawling sensations which mark the action of that poison.

The *pains* which may be caused by Gelseminum are not, in my opinion, caused by a primary affection of the nerves of sensation, but depend upon a certain morbid condition of the nerves of motion. Such pains are caused by cramp, like contractions of muscles and tendons, constricting certain nerves or blood-vessels, or they may arise as in case of *Aconite* from irritation of the ganglionic nerves, about the blood-vessels—many are probably congestive in their nature, like the pains in the head and eyes. In pure Neuralgia, this remedy can be of but little service; although it may be very useful in removing many consensual symptoms, such as excessive nervous irritations, drawing and twitching of the muscles of the affected parts &c. Dr. Douglas, however, declares that—"A majority of all cases of Neuralgia will be promptly relieved by Gelseminum but it sometimes requires to be given in pretty large doses, repeated every half hour till the pain is relieved."

Nerves of motion. Gelseminum like *Nux vomica*, *Angustura*, *Æsculus*, *Ignatia* and *Strychnia*, does primarily affect the nerves of motion, but in an opposite manner. *It* depresses and paralyzes these nerves, while *they* excite, and irritate. But while the action of Gelseminum differs from that of *Strychnia* in this respect; in another it affords a remarkable resemblance. Both cause hyperæmia of the spinal marrow, which may increase to actual engorgement or extravasation. This condition is not brought about as soon by *Gelseminum* as by *Nux vomica*, but the condition when obtained has very nearly the same results. But while the active congestion of the spinal marrow caused by *Nux vomica*, is accompanied by an exalted and tense state of the motor nerves, even to tetanic spasm; the passive congestion of *Gelseminum* is accompanied by a paralytic or debilitated state of those nerves, or a condition exactly opposite to tetanus.

Gelseminum may cause death by prostrating and exhausting *primarily* the energies and vital power of the nerves of voluntary and involuntary motion. While *Strychnia*, *Nux vomica*, &c., would produce death from the same cause, but the fatal prostration would be secondary; the exhaustion being preceded and caused by the primary irritation and spasmodic action of those nerves.

Gelseminum may also cause death by congestion and apoplexy of the brain and spinal marrow.

Nux, *Ignatia* and *Strychnia* may also cause death by producing such a congested condition of the spinal cord and its membranes as to lead to final hemorrhage into those important tissues.

CLINICAL REMARKS.

The primary Homœopathicity of Gelseminum to paralysis from loss of motion will be discussed in other places.

Its use in very many forms of *Convulsions* may here be alluded to. The other schools of medicine, viewing this drug as a powerful anti-spasmodic, would see it indicated in nearly all forms of convul-

sion. It has been used in both clonic and tonic spasms in Epilepsy, Chorea, Hysteria, &c.

I gave it in one case of severe Hysterical Epilepsy—a young girl after suppressed menses had attacks *every* evening, lasting an hour or two, during which time so severe was the spasm of the glottis that asphyxia seemed really impending. The attacks had been every day for two weeks. Five drops of the tincture were given at three and again at six o'clock P. M. At seven, the usual hour, no spasms appeared, and did not return until the next menstrual period, when the remedy had no effect, and Asafoedita, in one grain doses, every four hours was resorted to, which brought on the menses and *cured* the spasms.

I have treated many cases of Hysteria from various causes with this medicine, and I know of none, more *generally useful*.

Eclectic writers claim to have cured cases of *Chorea* with *Gelseminum*. In the three cases, treated by me, one recovered, one was benefitted, and *one*, a case of years continuance, seemed to be aggravated.

In *Tetanus*, it would seem to be one of the most powerful *Antipathic* remedies, yet I cannot find a single recorded case, treated with this remedy. After testing the medicines Homœopathic to the disease, like *Nux Vomica*, *Ignatia*, *Aconite*, &c., I should resort to the *Gelseminum* with a good deal of confidence. We know that it produces its peculiar prostrating effects, even to an extreme degree, without causing any local lesion. Now it often happens that no material traces of disease can be discovered either in the brain and spinal marrow of persons dead of *Tetanus*. Dr. Gerhard declares that of the twelve cases he examined no lesion whatever could be detected. Some of the secondary symptoms of *Gelseminum* strongly resemble this disease. A trial of this agent is to be hoped for in this formidable malady.

In *Hydrophobia* also, no appearances have been found which could account for the fatality of the disease. In this terrible malady, *Gelseminum* ought to be found *useful* if not curative. In material doses it relaxes all the muscles, calms the fury of nervous excitement, relaxes the glottis, and prevents spasms. Why should it *not* be valuable in *Hydrophobia*? The spasms in this disease are brief and clonic, similar to the secondary ones of *Gelseminum*. The circulation is much disturbed (excited). The dog killed with it could not drink while under its influence. Were I to become hydrophobic, I should take *Gelseminum* and "await the end."

Since writing the last page, several of my colleagues have reported to me cures of spasmodic croup in children, made with *Gelseminum* used according to my suggestion. I have no doubt but it will prove an invaluable remedy in that malady, named by Wood—" *Infantile spasm of the Glottis*." It is known in medical works under the name of *Laryngismus Stridulous*, *Asthma of Millar*, &c. The essential

nature of the disease is a general morbid excitability of the nervous system, directed especially to the muscles of the glottis, which contract spasmodically.

It has been said to arise from irritation or inflammation of the cervical portion of the spinal marrow, (that portion most irritated by Gelseminum) the presence of worms in the intestines, &c.

From whatever cause it may arise, the *Gelseminum* if not a *cura-tive* remedy, properly—will be a valuable palliative, used in drop doses of the first dilution or mother tincture, frequently repeated; it must procure relief in the majority of cases, while during the intermediate time, it should be alternated with Belladonna or Hyoscyamus, Arsenicum, or Moschus.

MUSCULAR SYSTEM.

The most prominent of all the effects of *Gelseminum* is to induce a profound and intense prostration of the whole muscular system. Its effects are first manifested on the voluntary muscles, afterwards on the involuntary. No remedy so suddenly and surely destroys the tone of muscular structure, but it acts not by causing any disintegration or disorganization, but by impairing the vitality of those nerves which supply it with life.

This property of Gelseminum can be made subservient to the physician in many ways.

In cases of obstinate tonic convulsions and cramplike rigidity, full doses, sufficient to bring the muscular system under its pathogenetic action, will promptly remove such morbid conditions. There is no danger in this method of administering the remedy, for one of the peculiarities of its action is that there is no permanent injury done to the tonicity of muscular structure, unless its use is long persisted in, and wantonly abused. In this respect it acts wonderfully like chloroform.

Like Chloroform, it will be found very useful to the Surgeon, when in cases of dislocation or fracture, reduction is rendered difficult or impossible by a rigidity of the muscles of the part. In such cases the system may be brought under its influence very readily. It does not however give that insensibility to pain, which is the prominent effect of chloroform.

It is freely used by some obstetricians in cases of rigidity of the *os-uteri*, or external parts. *King* advises it in all such cases as being much superior to Lobelia, as well as pleasanter, as it does not nauseate nor cause that sense of deathly prostration so peculiar to that drug. I have used it successfully in such cases, as well as for those severe spasmodic pains which sometimes come on in labor. In such instances it must be given in appreciable doses, of five, ten or fifteen drops, repeated if required; a slight dimness of sight is a good indication that the remedy is acting.

VASCULAR SYSTEM—Heart and Arteries.

Pulse frequent, soft, weak,—so feeble as to be sometimes imperceptible. Fluttering pulse. Pulse full 120. Pulse slow and full, or slow and soft. Sometimes as though the blood had ceased to circulate. (Various Observers.) (Hale's Note.)

Heart's action slow and feeble. The beats of the heart cannot be felt. In one of the dissections of the heart was very rapid, but feeble, so fast that the beats could scarcely be counted. (Hale.) The action of the heart and arteries must be depressed with cold hands and feet, shills, and powerful astringents (Angus).

Pathological. The right side of the heart and large vessels are congested with blood. The muscular fibres of the heart were relaxed. The blood within the ventricles was fluid.

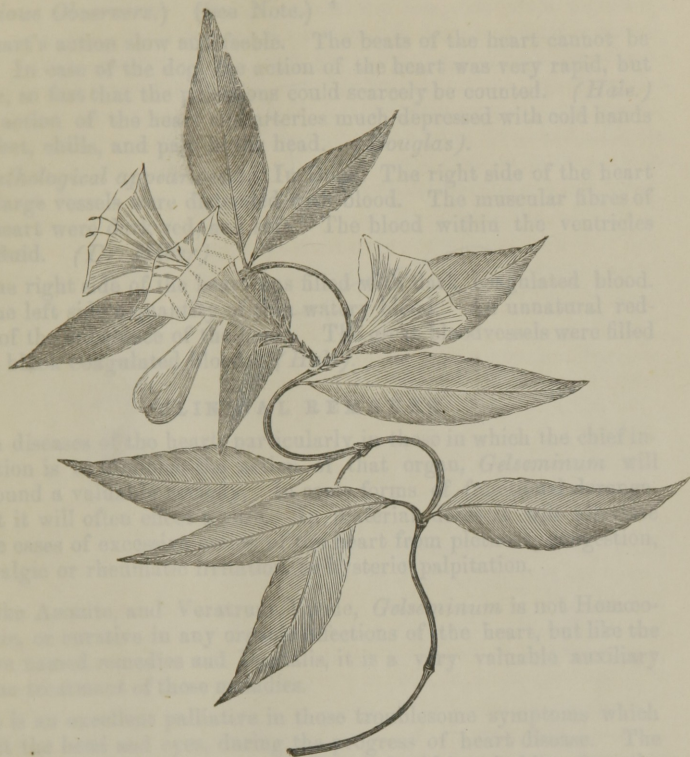
The right side of the heart was congested with blood. In the left ventricle was a small quantity of unnatural redness of the vessels were filled with blood.

In diseases of the heart, in which the chief indication is a weak and feeble action, *Gelseminum* will be found a valuable remedy. In those cases of heart disease, in which there is a marked palpitation, it is a valuable auxiliary.

Like *Aconite* and *Veratrum*, *Gelseminum* is not Homoeopathic, or curative in any of the affections of the heart, but like the above named remedies and *Opium*, it is a very valuable auxiliary in the treatment of these diseases.

It is an excellent palliative in those febrile symptoms, which affect the heart and give rise to the various forms of heart disease. The symptoms of heart disease, such as palpitation, throbbing, jerking, &c., are relieved by the use of *Gelseminum*.

GELSEMINUM SEMPERVIRENS.
(Yellow Jessamine.)



FEVER.

When a few minutes, sometimes within two or three, a marked

relief is observed in the symptoms of the Yellow Fever, it is a sign that the *Gelseminum* has acted. The following shows the effect of the remedy in the treatment of this disease.

Time of day.	State of mind.	State of pulse.	State of tongue.
10 A.M.	Restless.	120.	White.
1 P.M.	Restless.	120.	White.
4 P.M.	Restless.	120.	White.
7 P.M.	Restless.	120.	White.
10 P.M.	Restless.	120.	White.
1 A.M.	Restless.	120.	White.
4 A.M.	Restless.	120.	White.
7 A.M.	Restless.	120.	White.
10 A.M.	Restless.	120.	White.

VASCULAR SYSTEM---Heart and Arteries.

Pulse frequent, soft, weak,—so feeble as to be sometimes imperceptible. Fluttering pulse. Pulse full 120. Pulse slow and full, or slow and soft. Sensation as though the blood had ceased to circulate. (*Various Observers.*) (See Note.) *

Heart's action slow and feeble. The beats of the heart cannot be felt. In case of the dog, the action of the heart was very rapid, but feeble, so fast that the pulsations could scarcely be counted. (*Hale.*) The action of the heart and arteries much depressed with cold hands and feet, chills, and pain in the head. (*Douglas*).

Pathological appearances. In Dogs: The right side of the heart and large vessels were distended with blood. The muscular fibres of the heart were dark red, and soft. The blood within the ventricles was fluid. (*Dr. Miller*)

The right side of the heart was filled with dark coagulated blood. In the left side a quantity of thin watery blood. An unnatural redness of the substance of the heart. The great bloodvessels were filled with black coagulated blood. (*Hale*).

CLINICAL REMARKS.

In diseases of the heart, particularly in those in which the chief indication is to diminish the action of that organ, *Gelseminum* will be found a valuable remedy. In some forms of functional derangement it will often effect a cure. In material doses it will alleviate those cases of excessive action of the heart from plethora, congestion, neuralgic or rheumatic irritation, or hysteric palpitation.

Like Aconite, and Veratrum Viride, *Gelseminum* is not Homœopathic, or curative in any organic affections of the heart, but like the above named remedies and Digitalis, it is a very valuable auxiliary in the treatment of those maladies.

It is an excellent palliative in those troublesome symptoms which affect the head and eyes, during the progress of heart disease. The sensation of fulness, heaviness, giddiness, throbbing, jerking, &c., the dimness of sight and other amaurotic symptoms are admirably met by small doses of *Gelseminum* or its alkaloid.

F E V E R .

Within a few minutes, sometimes within two or three, a marked

* NOTE. Its action on the pulse is well illustrated by the observations of Drs. White and Ford, of Charleston, S. C. In the treatment of Yellow Fever they found that the *Gelseminum* appeared to influence the volume of the pulse before its frequency. The following shows its effect upon the pulse in disease:

Mean frequency of pulse.	Adult Males. Beats per minute.	Adult Females. Beats per minute.	Children. Beats per minute.
When first given,	112.4	101.3	122 2
Twelve hours after,	55.4	54.6	70.9

depression of pulse, which becomes 10, 15 or 20 beats less in the minute, if quiet, but greatly disturbed by movement.

Chilliness, especially along the back, pressive pain in the head, most generally of the temples, sometimes in the occiput, at others over the head. The chilliness is soon followed by a glow of heat and prickling of the skin, and quickly succeeded by perspiration which is sometimes profuse and disposed to be persistent, continuing from twelve to twenty-four hours. As soon as the reaction takes place after the chill the pulse rises as much above the normal standard as it was before depressed below it. With these symptoms is a puffy, swollen look, and feeling of fulness of the eyelids, slimy and disagreeable or bitter taste in the mouth, languid feeling in the back and limbs and sleepiness. (*Douglas.*)

Febrile chilliness, cold extremities, especially the feet, heat of head and face with headache. Pulse uniformly depressed and rendered less frequent with chilliness, cold feet, heat and pain of the head.—(*Hull's Jahr.*)

(This statement regarding the pulse is erroneous. I have found that in both men and animals, it often increased the rate and frequency of the pulse. Sometimes even the volume of the pulse seemed increased, but generally it is diminished. An explanation of this phenomenon will be found in the paragraph "*Head.*")

Derangement of circulation as shown in the fluctuations of the pulse from 70 to 120. Chilliness with vertigo, headache and coated tongue, cold extremities, inclination to "hug the fire," with chills following each other in rapid succession from sacrum to base of occiput. (*Dr. F. L. Vincent.*)

Dr. M. E. Lazarus, a well known painstaking prover, could not get any such prominent symptoms as recorded by Dr. Douglas. He however experienced a languor, with inclination to stretch, some slight chilliness, with feeble flashes of heat. He suggests that perhaps Dr. Douglas is very susceptible to the action of *Gelseminum*. My impression would be the same, as I have given it to healthy persons, in all manner of doses, yet never heard any one mention such decisive symptoms as those of Dr. Douglas. Still it is undoubtedly primarily Homœopathic to the pathological conditions upon which all real *chills* depend, and secondarily Homœopathic to febrile conditions or the reaction which follows those conditions.

In this respect it is somewhat similar to *Aconite*, and others of the same group. But it is only a general, not a particular resemblance.

(There is one form of *rigors*, or "nervous chills, as they are sometimes called, in which, with shivering and chattering of the teeth, there is no sensation of chilliness. It is an irritated condition of the nerves of motion, and is seen in hysterical subjects, or appears during a fright or other mental emotion in healthy persons. It is often seen during parturition, and is said to attend relaxation of Sphincter muscles. Now *Gelseminum* causes just such rigors by establishing similar conditions as the above, and a small dose of the tincture will control readily such morbid manifestations.)

In *Simple Fever*, without functional disturbance, Dr. Douglas declares it to be specific, given at the onset of any fever of simple uncomplicated character, it will undoubtedly arrest it very promptly. It seems peculiarly adapted to the fevers of children and sensitive females, while Aconite and Veratrum Viride are more applicable to adults, of robust and rigid constitutions.

In the so-called *Irritative Fever*, it will be found a valuable remedy. It is more capable of meeting the majority of the symptoms of that malady than any remedy which I have used. It corresponds with the excessive nervous irritation, the tendency to irregular convulsive action; the periods of wakeful debility; and the accessions of feverish stupor. In cases however, complicated with hepatic, or gastric difficulties it will have to be aided by *Mercurius*, *Podophyllum*, *Ipecacuanha* and *Tartarus emeticus*. Should the lungs be implicated it *might* answer alone, but *Phosphorus*, *Bryonia* or *Antimonium crudum* will be of service. If the bowels are affected, *Pulsatilla*, *Mercurius* or *Chamomilla* may have to be given; although some of the provings seem to indicate that *Gelseminum* affects the intestinal functions. Wood, with doubtful propriety, classes *Infantile Remittent*, as well as *Worm Fever*, with Irritative Fevers. There may be some general affinity, as *Gelseminum* has proved useful in each. Since I have treated infantile remittents with this remedy, I have conducted them safely through their course with better satisfaction than before.

Dr. R. LUDLAM, in his article on the "Therapeutics of Infantile Remittent Fever," in the *N. Am. Journal of Homæopathy*, says:—

"Excepting the *Aconite*, there is certainly no remedy with which the profession is at present familiar, which promises so much as the GELSEMINUM, in the treatment of this variety of the remittents of infancy and childhood."

"From personal observation (and these hints have their origin in this source only) we should be inclined to recommend Gelseminum in those remittents which are primarily characterized by excessive irritability and erethism, either of the general or special nervous systems. There is perhaps no single means which, under the various circumstances which accompany and give good evidence of the aforesaid pathological condition, promises so much as this. We have sometimes failed with Aconite, with Chamomilla, and with Belladonna, to allay the excessive restlessness and disquiet occasioned by what the old nurses style an "inward fever" in a little juvenile, and at other times have succeeded at once in its relief by a few doses of Gelseminum."

(I [Hale] have found the *Scutellaria*, or *Cypripedium*, in drop doses of the Mother Tincture, to succeed in calming the nervous irritability of children, and even adults, when all other remedies had failed. A trial of these "nervines," so called, or their active principles, will give satisfaction in all cases of nervous erethism.)

"This remedy appears also to be well adapted to the relief of those attacks of this fever which border closely upon intermittents, examples of which might readily be mistaken for a masked fever of that peculiar type. In such cases, as well as those which toward their close, degenerate into ague, in one or another of its protean forms, we may pre-

scribe a low attenuation of the Gelseminum with the confident hope of success. In our hands, indeed it has proved almost a specific for those remittents, the diagnosis of which, from a more definitely paroxysmal form of fever was not readily made out. We have also cured several well marked intermittents with it, but its sphere of usefulness would appear to lie somewhere along the boundary between these and the purely idiopathic remittents of which we have been speaking."

The real value of Gelseminum in Intermittents, is not yet to a certainty ascertained. Some Homœopathic Physicians, among them Holcombe, Ludlam and Douglas, assert that it will cure agues. Holcombe with characteristic boldness, gives us the following odd prescription for a Homœopathic one: For intermittents with cerebral symptoms, with hyperæsthesia predominating—

Recipe—Sulphate of Quinine, 10 grains,
Gelsemin, 1 grain,

Divide into five parts. Begin six hours before the expected paroxysm, and give one part every hour.

"*Indications for use.* When the paroxysm has been marked by violent pains, referable to the cerebro-spinal, rather than the ganglionic system, and by correspondingly intense burning fever, great nervous restlessness, sensitiveness to light and sound, mental agitation or anxiety, delirium, sleeplessness, curious sensations of falling, swimming from giddiness, partial blindness or deafness, especially applicable to nervous, excitable subjects, and to mild fresh cases, without prominent gastric or hepatic symptoms, in short, before any visceral complication has been engrafted on the nervous phenomenon."

(This last clause, I (Hale) regard as well indicating the sphere of action of *Gelseminum* in agues, but in the 'indications' proper, Holcombe has mixed up the primary with the secondary symptoms of the drug, which rarely appear together.

The dose however that he advises is very nearly of the proper quantity. Of the quinine, I think he prescribes altogether too much. In very similar cases, I have succeeded admirably with one-fifth or one-tenth grain doses of Quinine, *alternated* with one-tenth or one-twentieth grain of Gelsemin, or two or three drops of the mother tincture. Holcombe's prescription would undoubtedly arrest the paroxysms promptly, but it would be apt to give rise to visceral complications, which smaller doses would avoid, and at the same time be equally as efficacious.)

DR. LUDLAM writes me—

"Perhaps in the whole range of its clinical virtues there is no more satisfactory and really valuable use which can be made of the Gelseminum than in the treatment of those intermittents which might properly be styled *post-typhoid*. It is to this especial form of intermittents, which succeeding upon an adynamic condition of system, are characterized by a want of distinctness in their several stages, and which are of a masked type and intractable in nature, that the Gelseminum has in our experience seemed to be particularly applicable. We have remarked the evident tendency in patients suffering with enteric fever, and who had but recently removed to the city [Chicago] from miasmatic districts, to sequelæ of this order. Scarcely any

such patient has escaped this characteristic convalescence, and in none of those cases in which we have ordered this remedy have we failed to witness the best results from its employment, while in years past, such cases were especially perplexing and tedious, we are free to express our pleasure in and appreciation of a means so entirely successful. These patients were all from the Southern States."

John C. Morgan, M. D., author of a short proving in the April number of *Shipman's Journal of Materia Medica*, writes as follows: "It seems worthy to be called a specific for *fresh* cases of Intermittents, and will modify even old cases, changing double to single tertian. My dose is one-fourth drop in a teaspoonful of water, usually. I send a few clinical cases.

(a) "W. S., a swarthy soldier of large frame, on going into camp, May 11, had no blanket, slept on straw under leaky sheds—the night being cold awoke early in the morning with a severe chill, but little shaking, fever ensued. Took at a dose ten drops common *Tincture Gelseminum*. Fever augmented with slight delirium. Took five drops—some aggravation. During the afternoon and evening took fractional drop doses. No fever at night. The next day took one-fourth drop every two hours. He had no other paroxysm."

Remarks. This may not have been an attack of Intermittent. Such chills followed by fever, are often the result of exposure, or getting wet. Still, had it not been for the *Gelseminum*, it might have resulted in some form of protracted fever. (*Hale.*)

(b) A soldier of sanguine temperament had Diarrhœa and rheumatic pains with symptoms of Intermittent. Took for several days one-fourth drop *Tincture Gelseminum*, and was cured.

Intermittent Fever.

CASE I. "In one case I had used all the usual anti-periodics, as *Cornine Salicine*, *Quinine*, &c., without success. Even after producing the constitutional effects of Quinine, the chills would return, sometimes every day for awhile, then every other day. Thus the case continued for several weeks, until I despaired of success with the other anti-periodics, so I determined to try the *Tincture of Gelseminum*. Accordingly I left an ounce of the tincture of the fresh root, directing it to be given in doses of thirty drops every two or three hours until the eyes were affected, then the medicine was to be suspended until that passed off, then again resumed as before, and so on until the fever was broken. I saw the patient just as the chill was gone off and commenced the *Tincture of Gelseminum* immediately. The fever did not rise very high, nor continue long, nor did the chill ever return. The patient recovered from the time he commenced the medicine and was soon up at his usual avocation. Now what still more astonished me was, that the medicine never affected his eyes in the least, yet it suspended the chills immediately. I had frequently combined the *Tincture of Gelseminum* with the other anti-periodics before and met with very prompt success, yet I attributed it to the other articles, but this time I determined to try the *Gelseminum* alone,—[Sensible!—*Hale.*] (*Dr. Goss, Eclectic Medical Journal.*)

CASE II, Nov. 4.—Intermittent Fever (tertian type). Has been affected six months, has pain in the head and pains over the body when he has no chill, tongue not much coated, other symptoms common to the disease.

Treatment.—Alkaline bath once a day. *Recipe*—*Tincture Gelseminum*, one-half dram three times a day.

Nov. 17. Discharged cured.—(*Newton's Clinical Reports.*)

The above are the only two published cases of Intermittents cured by the medicine *alone*. Very many cases are reported of pretended cures by *Gelseminum*, but as it was always given so mixed with *Qui-*

nine, Hydrastin or other drugs, that no reliance can be placed upon the reports.

Dr. Holcombe writes me that the *Gelseminum* was the basis of several celebrated Patent Medicines, noted at the South for the cure of remittent and intermittent fevers, that it certainly was the principal ingredient in "*Speed's Tonic*," which at one time was popularly considered an unrivalled febrifuge, but failing to cure those cases attended with organic complications it fell into disfavor, although it is still used by many people in the South.

"From large doses I have seen blindness, partial deafness, singular torpor, stupidity of feeling, inability to open the eyelids, and nervous prostration, such symptoms as would follow a state of nervous excitement or hyperæsthesia. In small doses I have found it valuable in the opposite conditions. I class it with *Aconite*, *Belladonna*, and *Chamomilla*. I have used it in the summer months for weeks at a time as I would *Aconite*. I believe in addition to its febrifuge power, it has a specific *anti-periodic* influence.

Dr. Douglas praises the *Gelseminum*, in drop doses, very highly in simple uncomplicated Intermittents, when indicated by the symptoms, and speaks of having met with much success in its use.

Dr. Ludlam has cured several well marked cases of Intermittent Fever with the low dilutions. Several of my colleagues report cases of ague, successfully treated with *Gelseminum*.

I have used it frequently in Intermittents, and have succeeded in some severe cases in curing the disease, after it had been arrested with *Quinine*, but showed an obstinate tendency to return. These cases were reported in full in the August number of the *North American Journal of Homœopathy* for 1861.

It can be used both during the apyrexia, and in the paroxysm. In larger doses during the former state, than during the latter. It will be found to control the painful nervous sensations which arise during the fever, better than *Aconite*, if indicated.

An Eclectic Physician, engaged in a large practice in the State of Ohio, informed me that except in severe *congestive* cases, he relied altogether upon *Gelseminum* to break up the paroxysms of Fever and Ague. He stated, however, that he always gave a sufficient quantity to cause almost complete blindness during the apyrexia. I can hardly doubt the veracity of my informant, but I suggested to him that he might *break the patient*, as well as the ague. He had no fears of that result however.

I am not aware that any Homœopathist has advised or used *Gelseminum* in *Typhoid* or *Enteric Fever*. But its pathogenesis and physiological action has many points of resemblance to that form of Typhoid designated as *Nervous Fever*, i. e., when there is no intestinal lesion or any particular local complication. It is specifically indicated in those cases in which the patient, from some great excitement, or over-exertion, suddenly sinks into a low typhoid state, with great prostration of all the vital forces, and when he experiences strange sensations in the head, with morbid condition of the motor nerves, manifested by local paralysis, or continued jactitation of certain muscles. Women are more subject to this variety than men. With the former we have many hysteric symptoms, such as nervous dysphagia, even hysteric spasms, sleeplessness, aberration of sight, &c.

Gelsemium should here be cautiously given in drop doses, or pellets of the 2nd or 3d, and alternated with perhaps *Ignatia*, *Scutellaria*, or *Baptisia*.

In true enteric fever, I should not place much reliance on *Gelsemium*. There are other remedies which pathologically correspond, and are consequently more specific.

Among these are *Baptisia*, *Rhus toxicodendron*, *Phosphoric Acid*, *Arsenicum*, *Terebinthina*, and *Muriatic Acid*.

In *Yellow Fever*, *Gelsemium* has not been used by the Homœopathic school, I believe. Drs. Holcombe or Davis, make no mention of it in their reports to our Homœopathic Journals. They relied upon *Aconitum*, *Belladonna*, *Arsenicum*, *Lachesis* and *Argentum Nitricum*.

The Eclectic and Allopathic schools have used it to some extent, but the only published report I can find relating to it, is a pamphlet, by Drs. White and Ford, of Charleston, S. C. The report was entitled the "Bradycote [whatever that may mean] treatment of *Yellow Fever by Gelsemium Sempervirens*." They prepared a tincture from the fresh root as follows: *Recipe*—*Radix Gelsemini* four ounces, *Alcohol* (95 per cent.) and *Aqua communis*, each 8 ounces.

To adults they gave of this 20 to 30 drops; to children, from 5 to 20; every hour for the first four hours; then at longer intervals, and with doses half as large. The manner in which it affected the pulse is shown by a table under caption of "Vascular system." Total number treated with *Gelsemium* 24; all of which recovered. Of these, fifteen were males and nine females. Adults 12, children 12, whites 22, blacks 2. Of the whole number treated two vomited black vomit, five passed black vomit downward. In three cases hemorrhage occurred from the tongue, gums or nasal passages. One woman was in the sixth month of pregnancy, and did not abort.

Average Duration of Treatment.	Adult Males. Days.	Adult Females. Days.	Children. Days.
	7.2	9.3	8.5

No marked prostration was caused by this remedy. The pulse being, however, much less quickly reduced than by *Veratrum Viride*. In few cases was the heart's action fully lowered in less than twelve hours, and it was well controlled throughout the rest of the disease, in the majority of cases. The concurrent treatment was the same as with *Veratrum*. Mercurialization was complete in ten cases, incomplete in fourteen cases. In a few instances a marked redness of the tongue was observed, a condition that was not distinctly noticed during the administration of *Veratrum*. [This symptom has been often noticed in my provings. *Hale*]. The *Gelsemium* appeared to produce a general calming influence even during the early period of its administration, but was not found to possess any marked narcotic

properties. It seemed to promote the action of the kidneys, and during its use only, in several cases, an *erythema* of the skin was noticed. This drug appeared to influence the volume of the pulse, before it affected its frequency, and in most cases for the rest of the disease to control both conditions in an equal manner. Emesis was not observed to ensue upon the administration of this medicine; the gastric irritability peculiar to the disease being moreover to all appearances favorably influenced.

There were treated by *Veratrum viride* 117 cases, of which 15 died. Of six treated by the ordinary method [without *Veratrum* or *Gelseminum*] three died.

In *Scarlet Fever*, the *Gelseminum* bids fair to rank with *Belladonna*. Besides being indicated in the peculiar intense fever, with nervous erethism, its well-known action on the Skin will render it of value in impelling the eruption toward the surface.

It causes a peculiar erythema, which has some resemblance to the eruption in *Scarlatina* as well as some forms of *Purpura*.

Its analagous relation to both *Belladonna* and *Aconite*, strongly commends it to our favor, and if we are to judge its curative powers from its pathological effects, it will be found efficient, alone, where the former remedies are indicated.

Dr. H. W. White, of Coldwater, Mich., speaks very highly of its effects in *Scarlatina*. He asserts that it will control the pulse, calm the nervous erethism, determine the eruption toward the surface, relieve pain, and lessen the cerebral congestion, in a manner superior to *Belladonna* or *Aconite*. Cases which seemed quite formidable at their commencement, soon assumed a milder character, and terminated safely. He considers it effectual, alone, to control the majority of cases. Should the disease assume a malignant character, Dr. White alternates it with *Ammonium Carbonicum*, *Carbo-Vegetabilis*, *Muriatic Acid*, or *Arsenicum*. Its use should be suspended, if symptoms of prostration set in.

In *Measles*, the *Gelseminum* appears to be specifically indicated during the forming and inflammatory stage [the eruptive]. Among its pathogenetic symptoms we find prominent catarrhal conditions, as "chilliness, watery discharge from the nose, hoarseness with feeling of soreness of the throat and in the chest, cough, &c." Among its effects upon the skin we find "a papulous eruption very much the color of measles, which it closely resembles, but the papulæ are more distant and distinct. It appears most frequently upon the face."

Relying upon these fragmentary, yet prominent indications, I have treated several cases of *Rubeola* with this remedy, and apparently with good results. It seemed to prevent a continuance of the cough beyond its proper limits, and act as a prophylactic to chronic catarrhal affections, bronchitis or pneumonia.

Dr. Douglas considers it quite capable of modifying the disease in a marked manner when given in the first stages, after which *Pulsatilla*, *Euphrasia* and *Sulphur* will be more useful.

Dr. Lodge states that he has used *Gelsemium* in measles, in some cases to the exclusion of any other remedy, and is satisfied that it is a valuable medicine in this disease.

In the treatment of Erysipelas, *Gelsemium* may be found of unequivocal benefit. It is certainly Homœopathic to the febrile symptoms, if not to the peculiar eruption or external manifestations of the disease, yet *Gelsemium* causes an erythema, which certainly bears a resemblance to some of the milder forms of erysipelas. It is also Homœopathic to those dangerous and often fatal congestions, or internal metastases which often complicate the malady. I gave it in one severe case of Facial Erysipelas, in alternation with *Rhus*. The case progressed very favorably.

Dr. Coë, advises it as a topical application. "We have found the tincture beneficial as an outward application in erysipelatous affections. Diluted with from four to eight parts of water we have applied it with excellent results. The parts should be kept covered with cloths wetted in the dilute tincture. It abates the local inflammation, and has a very soothing and pleasant influence."

In *Variola* the *Gelsemium* may prove as useful as *Aconite* and *Belladonna* in allaying the intense and painful fever which accompanies that disease. I can find no record of cases of small-pox treated with this remedy, nor have I had an opportunity to administer it in the disease; but I should not hesitate to give it a trial, and should expect from it excellent palliative results, in rendering the fever less painful and dangerous.

In all eruptive fevers, especially in children, there is a strong tendency to convulsions, at or about the time of the appearance of the eruption. I know of no remedy which is so likely to prevent that unpleasant and often fatal complication as the one under consideration.

In the treatment of Rheumatic Fever, and Rheumatism generally, *Gelseminum* has its advocates in the homœopathic school of the North-west, or that portion of them which have adopted the use of the remedy. No reports of the successful use of *Gelsemium* in the treatment of this affection have yet appeared, although I am assured by several physicians with whom I have corresponded, that it is as valuable as *Veratrum viride* or *Belladonna*.

The *Gelsemium* is highly praised by some practitioners, in Hectic Fever, and there are some reasons for supposing it to be peculiarly adapted to that form of fever.

VENOUS SYSTEM.

Dr. Marcy declares *Aconite* to be "homœopathic to intense or excessive venous congestion, with entire paralysis, or depotentization of all

the arterial activities, carried up to the point of actual cyanosis." I [Hale] once supposed *Gelseminum* to be homœopathic to the same condition, but recent investigations have satisfied me that Holcombe's remark is true that "*Gelseminum* holds a position *midway between Aconite and Belladonna*." It is rather difficult to define exactly what this condition is, but it is certainly more homœopathic to arterial congestion than *Aconite* or *Veratrum viride*. Still, one of the effects of GELSEMINUM in moderate doses, is undoubtedly similar to *Aconite*, for like it it "depotentiizes the arterial activities." But from toxic doses, we get effects widely differing. In Dogs killed with the drug the lungs, brain and spinal cord were found in a state of active hyperæmia.

It needs further trial and investigation to determine the exact relation of *Gelseminum*, to the venous System. It may be asserted however, that while *Aconite* and *Veratrum viride* are only homœopathic to primary passive venous congestion, *Gelseminum* is primarily homœopathic to that form of *intense passive congestion of both veins and arteries, in which an irritation of the congested organs sets in nearly as severe as though the congestion had been active*. This condition may be attended by inflammation or hemorrhage and *may end in active arterial congestion, &c.*

Eclectic writers seem to be aware of the danger of using *Gelseminum* in some cases. *King* says "It is contra-indicated in congestive fever, in cases where there is great muscular and nervous prostration with relaxation, and when there exists a *determination to the brain or other important viscus*."

Lymphatic System.—Although *Coe* and some other writers crudely declare the *Gelseminum* to be an "alterative," we have no direct proof of such action. I have never seen any indications of its action on the glandular system, nor can I imagine any such action, unless it be from arterial congestion to certain large and important glands, which it may induce.

LOCAL EFFECTS.

Mind.—Irritable and impatient mood; incapacity to think or fix the attention; confusion of mind; stupid, intoxicated feeling; dulness of all the mental faculties. In one case great mirthfulness. (*Douglas*.)

Inability to concentrate the mind; depression of spirits; anxiety; incoherency of thought. (*Vincent*.)

The sensorial modification consisted of a mistiness within the brain, not much affecting the lucidity of thought, but somewhat confusing perceptions, so that I experienced some difficulty in attending to the physical details connected with my practice. (*M. E. Lazarus*.)

There was at first a cheerful, careless morale, afterwards depression of spirits. (*Ib*.)

I (Hale) found it to affect the power of concentration very materially.

I could not fix my mind on the contents of a newspaper, although the matter was of an exciting character. I could not pursue one train of thought for any time; ideas would vanish and leave a vacancy of mind which was quite annoying.

In two instances, in Dogs, it seemed to cause paroxysm of aimless fury, also momentary attacks of fearful mania, accompanied by running, jumping and hiding under tables, with protruded bloodshot eyes.

I have never known it to cause, in the human subject, that fearful anxiety and fear of death, which is so prominent a symptom of *Aconite*. *Arsenicum* causes a similar mental condition, but I have never seen *Veratrum Viride* have such an effect.

CLINICAL REMARKS.

Gelseminum is particularly recommended when there is excessive irritability of body and mind; in mental derangement with vascular excitement. No remedy is more useful in the causeless nervous excitement of hysteric patients; or in those feverish conditions accompanied by great restlessness, tossing about, sleeplessness and irritable mood. [In those conditions one or two drops of the tincture every hour will be the most proper mode of administration].

It is indicated in those attacks of frenzy attended with congestion or inflammation of the brain; also in those stupid, comatose conditions attending typhoid fever, and in the low muttering delirium of typhus. [Here we should give drop doses of the second or third dilution.]

I have found it Homœopathic, or curative to that state of semi-stupor, with intellectual languor and physical prostration caused by protracted night-watching; also in that mental apathy which follows intoxication from use of ardent spirits.

Hysterical insensibility is much more readily controlled by this medicine than with *Opium* or *Cannabis indica*. Hysterical Catalepsy is a similar malady and one in which *Gelseminum* is primarily indicated, also many other hysterical states of body and mind, while *Platinum*, *Asafœtida*, *Valerian*, and *Scutellaria* are secondarily Homœopathic to similar states.

Head.—Great heaviness of the head; sensation as if the *brain* was heavy; Heaviness of the head with dulness of mind; dimness of sight and vertigo. [*Hale*]

Pain in the head quite constant, dull, stupifying, and pressive; most frequently in the forehead and temples; bruised pain above and back of the orbits; tightness of the brain; often more or less headache with nausea; giddiness is pretty constant; an intoxicated feeling and tendency to stagger, often with dizziness and imperfection of vision, aggravated by smoking. [*Douglas*].

Heaviness with sense of fulness in the head, which increased to a severe headache, relieved on the third day of the proving by copious urination, after which a pleasant languor pervaded the system for some

hours; dulness of the head with stupor, dry mouth, coated tongue, bitter taste, pulse full and 80; intoxication, vertigo unto falling. [*Vincent*].

A sort of mistiness within the brain, not much affecting the lucidity of thought, but somewhat confusing perception. [*M. E. Lazarus*].

Staggering like one intoxicated; swimming sensation in the head; head felt very *light*, with vertigo. He could not hold the head erect. [*Tilden's Journal*].

Dull headache in right side of head, in the morning on rising a dull pain in occiput, and a slight tendency to throbbing in right side of head; headache in the top of the head; in the left occipital region; then changing to the sides and vertex; a settled, dull, dragging headache mainly in the occiput, mastoid and upper cervical region, extending to the shoulders, relieved when sitting by reclining the head and shoulders on a high pillow. [*J. C. Morgan*].

These last symptoms delineate a form of headache very often met with, and in which *Gelseminum* is a specific remedy.

No remedy has a greater influence over the circulation of the blood in the vessels of the brain. It causes intense hyperæmia of that organ, which stops just short of inflammation. But its paralysing influence on the great reactive forces of life, prevents that termination by destroying the reactive power of the system. In this respect it differs from *Belladonna*, *Stramonium* and *Quinine*.

PATHOLOGY. Vessels of the brain much congested. Engorgement of the veins of the head. *Several drops of dark colored blood effused* beneath the *arachnoid*, upon the upper portion of the cerebrum. The sinuses of the brain were full of dark coagulated blood. (*Hale's Experiments on Dogs*.)

In those cases where death occurred speedily, it changed the medullary structure of the brain. On dissection of animals killed by large doses of *Gelseminum*, I observed a constant hyperæmia of the lungs and brain. The pathological appearances caused by *Gelseminum* correspond with those caused by apoplexy, i. e., extravasation from the vessels of the brain and its membranes. (*Dr. Miller's Experiments*.)

CLINICAL REMARKS.

It is Homœopathic to that intense and overwhelming congestion of the brain which often attacks children during the period of dentition. In these cases the nervous energies soon lose their integrity. No reaction comes on, and the patient dies comatose, or in feeble convulsions. Owing to its primary Homœopathicity to this condition, *Gelseminum* should be used in the second or third decimal dilution, repeated every fifteen minutes.

It is also Homœopathic to *coup de soleil*, a condition very similar to the above. In the so-called 'brain fever' of children and adults it will be found beneficial in alternation with *Aconite*, *Bryonia*, *Belladonna* or *Hyoscyamus*. In inflammation of the membranes of the brain, it

will be found a valuable auxiliary to other well-known and reliable remedies in that affection.

It is Homœopathic to many varieties of headache, in which it has been successfully used both by Homœopathic and Allopathic Physicians.

In *Nervous* headaches, where the pain commences in the cervical portion of the spinal column, and spreads thence over the whole head it will afford prompt and timely relief. Dr. Pattee, of Massachusetts, says: "Headache of the nervous kind may often be relieved, and I have found no one medicine so useful in this troublesome disease."

Hemicrania when accompanied by abnormal symptoms of the eyes, such as dimness of sight or double vision, or with great sensitiveness to all sounds, will be promptly relieved by it.

The so-called *nervous* sick-headache, will generally be arrested by a few doses of a low dilution of *Gelsemium*, while the *true* sick-headache, which arises from gastric derangement, will only be palliated by this remedy, a cure can only be effected by proper diet, and the patient use of *Pulsatilla*, *Iris versicolor*, *Nux vomica*, *Podophyllum* and *Sanguinaria*.

Those who wish to understand the specific action of this drug in causing and curing these nervous affections of the head, will find an admirable explanation on page 12 of Peters' Ruckert on Headache. *Gelsemium* undoubtedly causes a weakened and debilitated state of the Great Sympathetic nerve; and thence arises the pain, heat, congestion, &c., of the head. It is primarily homœopathic to those headaches which come on suddenly with dimness of sight, or double vision, with dizziness, followed by great heaviness of the head, semi-stupor, dull, heavy expression of the face, great muscular relaxation, slow, full pulse, &c.

In COMA and APOPLEXY; it is homœopathic to these disorders when they arise from intense passive congestion, with nervous exhaustion, and as these are the primary conditions caused by *Gelsemium*, it must be given in very small doses. If the apoplexy depends on active arterial congestion, in persons of tense fibre, the doses must be larger.

It is perfectly homœopathic to true *hemorrhagic* apoplexy. In the dog killed by *Gelsemium* several drops of dark colored blood were found extravasated into the sub-arachnoid space. This lesion is identical with that variety of apoplexy described by PRUSS, (See Peters on Apoplexy,) as *sub-arachnoid*. This author has endeavored to establish the diagnosis between the *sub-* and *intra-arachnoid* apoplexies. By reference to his description of the symptoms it will be seen that the symptoms of the sub-arachnoid variety and the symptoms of *Gelsemium* exactly correspond.

These *meningeal* apoplexies frequently assume an *intermittent* character, which would be a still further indication for the use of this remedy; whilst should the careless physician use *Quinine* or *Nux vomica*, he would cause irretrievable damage.

I have found *Gelsemium* very useful against those distressing pains in the head which often follow fever and ague. These pains are of a crampy, drawing or tearing character, and are aggravated by study or exertion. They generally occupy the region of the occiput.

Also for those sensations and pains which in some persons, precede attacks of ague, such as drawing, or shooting dull pains in the region of the mastoid processes.

Eyes. Great heaviness of the lids; difficulty of opening the eyes or keeping them open; eyes close in spite of him, on looking steadily at an object; fullness and congestion of the lids; diplopia when inclining the head towards the shoulder, but vision single when holding the head erect. Dryness of the eyes; misty or glimmering appearance before the eyes; pain in the orbits, sometimes excessive. (*Douglas.*)

"DIPLOPIA which I could correct by an effort of the will. Distant objects seemed indistinct as I rode or walked, and one evening I could read but with difficulty. These symptoms are characteristic, as my sight is perfectly good and I never have anything the matter with my eyes. (*M. E. Lazarus.*) Dilation of pupils, amaurosis, diplopia, blindness, dimness of sight (*Vincent.*)

Stitch, traversing the eyelids on the right side, vertically; vertiginous sensation followed by confused vision, especially of distant objects; the sense of sight is tardy in following the movement, things appearing for several seconds to be blurred, and the eye remaining unfixed in its new direction but no sensation of gauze or film. It is accompanied by a disposition to partially close the eyes as if to steady the balls. Confusion of sight with heavy looking eyes. [Similar to that produced by alcohol.] (*J. C. Morgan.*)

Gelseminum has a remarkable and peculiar affinity for the organs of vision. No other remedy except *Belladonna* so promptly and so specifically affects the eyes. It must become, in time, a valuable Homœopathic remedy for many serious internal and external diseases of these organs.

Before its relaxing effects are felt in the *general* muscular system, its local effects upon the eyelids became apparent. The lids feel heavy, and are lifted with difficulty. After a time complete paralysis of the lids obtain. This constitutes an affection designated by ophthalmic writers as *Ptosis*. It may arise from paralysis of the levator muscle, or from an affection of the third pair of nerves. *Gelseminum* may cause ptosis by inducing either of these conditions. But there is some reason to believe that the ptosis caused by this drug may have a deeper seated origin.

Mackenzie [Diseases of the Eye] says "The *cerebral* variety may be either sudden or slow; the sudden, arising after fatiguing exertion, violent mental excitement, exposure to the direct rays of the sun, intoxication, blows on the head, concussion of the body, &c. The slow from organic changes going on in the brain. The disease often wears an *apoplectic* aspect." Mackenzie gives several cases, evidently caused by congestion of the brain. It is to such cases of ptosis that *Gelseminum* will be found curative. It will probably be found efficient in the ptosis of drunkards, from exposure to the sun, and the so-called rheumatic variety. It is eminently Homœopathic to those cases caused by paralysis of the third pair of nerves.

Diplopia is another prominent and primary effect of *Gelseminum*. Double vision, according to Mackenzie, may proceed from paralysis of some of the muscles of the eyeballs. Doubtless *Gelseminum* causes

such a form of this disease, and would be found curative to paralytic cases. But diplopia often proceeds from a congested state of the encephalon. I suspect that *Gelseminum* is homœopathic to such a morbid state, as also to the diplopia caused by alcohol and chloroform, to which it seems to have a great resemblance in many respects.

Gelseminum is homœopathic to asthenopia or debility of the eyes; in those cases of weakness of sight caused by exhaustion of the nerve from over-exertion of the eyes, especially when accompanied by dimness of sight feeling of weight in the head and eyes, with some dryness and double vision. It is not indicated in chronic cases. In these, China, Iron and *Nux vomica* will be most useful.

In one case the prover complained of having *Strabismus*, and a constant inclination to squint. It may be useful in some paralytic cases, but probably not curative in the strabismus which comes on in the course of hydrocephalus.

The *Amaurotic* symptoms caused by *Gelseminum* are many and distinct. It seems peculiarly indicated in that malady, and if we can ascertain the exact sphere of its action, may prove useful to the oculist in relieving amaurotic patients. It is undoubtedly homœopathic to many forms of amaurosis, viz: to those caused by *apoplexy of the retina*; congestion of the brain, apoplexy, and even those cases which arise from the presence of worms in the intestines.

When administered for the cure of amaurosis it should be given in small doses. The medium or even high potencies may prove efficient.

The following case is reported by Dr. Kenyon. It is illustrative of the curative powers of *GELSEMINUM* in some forms of *Amaurosis*:

“Rev. Mr. —, aged about 35 years, nervous bilious temperament, previously suffering from intermittent fever, and had taken Quinine largely, complained of being tormented with a constant floating of spots before the eyes, at times black, and even dazzling—no other symptoms. I gave him *Belladonna*, and did not see him again in three weeks, when he said the trouble was slightly relieved for a day or two, and then increased; he ceased taking the remedy, thinking it might be an aggravation, but the trouble continued to increase, and after a week he resumed the remedy with no effect. The sight is gradually growing dim, so that he cannot read or write; the words all run together, and he cannot tell a person across the room. There is considerable heat in the eyes and extending into the forehead; the floating spots are all black ones now; the pupil of the eye slightly contracted; with this exception perfectly healthy in appearance, and there is no indication of former troubles. I then prepared and gave him of the 6th and 30th dilution of *Gelseminum*—a dose of the 6th each morning, and of the 30th each evening. I did not hear from him again in several weeks, when he wrote me that in two days from the time he commenced the remedy he could see an improvement, when he, according to my directions, omitted the remedy, and in two weeks every trace of the trouble was removed. I saw him months after and he remained perfectly well.” (*17th Annual Report American Institute of Homœopathy.*)

Dr. D. W. Rodgers of Quincy, Mich., relates a case in the *North American Journal*, [August, 1861, p. 104] where the *Gelseminum* was useful in a case presenting symptoms of intense heaviness of head; stupid drowsiness;

dimness of vision ; also double vision, vertigo ; throbbing of the carotids ; pulse slow and weak.

Other cases could be reported, but sufficient has been presented to direct the attention of physicians to the great value of *Gelseminum* in this affection.

I have never noticed that it caused anything like photophobia. On the contrary it frequently causes a *thirst for light*. It might cause photophobia as one of its secondary or remote effects. I judge so from the fact that I once removed permanently a fear of light, more especially candle or lamp light, which had resisted Phosphorus and Conium, and was probably caused by an idiopathic over-sensitive state of the optic nerve, as there was no trace of inflammation. I used drop doses of the tincture, however. *Peters* declares *Belladonna* to be antipathic to photophobia. It must resemble *Gelseminum* in this particular symptom, and probably many others.

Under the action of *Gelseminum* the pupils are always dilated. I have never witnessed contraction. *Aconite* on the contrary, generally causes contraction of the pupils. It will be well to bear this fact in mind, as it is an important diagnostic symptom in many cerebral diseases.

Ears. Rushing and roaring in the ears. Sudden and temporary loss of hearing. The pains which ascend from the back to the occiput often affect the ears. (*Hale*.)

Digging in the right ear. Stitches. (*J. C. Morgan*.)

CLINICAL REMARKS. There are no instances on record of its being used in affections of the ear. One of the symptoms of Catarrh in the head, or a common cold, is roaring in the ears, with sudden deafness. In such cases it might prove of benefit. It may be found of service in neuralgic otalgia, also in paralytic deafness.

Coe says, "The diluted Tincture dropped into the ear will soften the accumulation of hardened cerumen, and relieve the ringing roaring, from diseased secretion."

Nose. In a few cases watery discharge from the nose. (*Douglas*.) Sneezing, with dull headache. Tingling in nose ; bloody mucous in nose. (*J. C. Morgan*.)

CLINICAL REMARKS. Dr. Douglas considers it a specific for colds in the head accompanied by a discharge of watery fluid from the nose, hoarseness, cough, soreness in the throat and chest.

Dr. Rodgers of Quincy, Mich., praises it highly in an epidemic of influenza in which he tested it.

It has been a valuable remedy in my practice in mild and severe attacks of influenza, with loss of smell, coryza, headache, &c.

Dr. Pattee (allopathic) says, "In coryza, or cold in the head, this is one of the best remedies I have ever used: it cures the severest cases in from twelve to forty-eight hours." (*Tilden's Journal*.)

Douglas and Pattee seem to coincide in this respect.

Face. A papulous eruption on the face, very nearly resembling measles. Erythema of the face and neck. Heavy, besotted appearance of the face. Sensations of *stiffness in the muscles of the jaws.* (*Several provers, &c.*)

The muscles of the face seemed to contract, especially the orbicularis oris, somewhat impeding speech. Numbness of the face.—(*F. L. Vincent.*)

Pale face; cold face, covered with perspiration. [Toxical effects.] Itching of small points on the face. Pimples on the temporal ridge. (*J. C. Morgan.*)

CLINICAL REMARKS. It has been used successfully by myself and some other homœopathists, in the treatment of Neuralgia of the face. It cured one case of Neuralgia of the infra-orbital nerve, which did not yield to *Aconite* or *Belladonna*. One drop of the Tincture was given every hour, and the diluted Tincture rubbed on the affected part.

Dr. Coe says, "Neuralgia, when arising from functional disturbances of the nervous system, is successfully treated with *Gelsemin.*"

It is best indicated when, in connection with the pain there are contractions and twitching of the muscles near the portion of the face affected; also in those cases accompanied with extreme general nervousness, and loss of control over the voluntary muscles, giving rise to odd, irregular motions.

Dr. Douglas has found it curative in several cases of prosopalgia.

Prof. LUDLAM writes me:—

"In some cases of orbital neuralgia, characterized by distinct paroxysms of acute pain, of a quotidian type, located along the superciliary ridge, especially over the *left* eye, with contractions of the eyelids and a peculiar expression in the eye of the affected side—the organ appearing to the observer as if the patient were laboring under a maddening delirium, the opposite eye appearing quite normal meanwhile—we have given the *Gelseminum* with good effect. In one example, where Quinine had failed at the hand of another physician, the *Gelseminum* afforded prompt relief. In most cases thus remedied, the relief of suffering has been gradual, the pain tapering off quietly and imperceptibly. We have never employed it locally in this disorder. To speculate upon its *modus operandi* would perhaps be of little service, but that it has the property of interrupting certain nervous disorders of which the more prominent symptom is their periodicity, there can be no question. The introduction of the element of time into the organism, whether viewed in a physiological or pathological light, is one of the most marvellous and entertaining phenomena connected with the history of the species. And any remedy capable of relieving abnormalities of this function—if such we may style it—in any of their protean forms, merits our study and most earnest attention. If it be demonstrated by actual experiment that the *Gelseminum* is capable of palliating and removing a local hyperæsthesia of the supra-orbital nerves, or indeed of any other nerves, the profession should be made aware of this fact, and it is for this reason that we are led to record our own limited experience in the direction indicated."

It may prove useful against erythema of the face, also to certain papulous eruptions of the face, not of a constitutional character.

The sensations of tension, stiffness and contraction of the muscles

of the face and jaws, would seem to indicate that it might be useful in some cases of *Trismus*. (*Scutellaria* causes similar symptoms.) Acting upon this suggestion I once gave it to a female patient, who, in a hysterical attack of unusual severity had such rigidity of the muscles surrounding the mouth and jaws, that it resembled an attack of tetanus. The jaws could not be forced open, nor hardly the lips. I succeeded in getting two or three drops between her teeth. In eight or ten minutes the jaws began to gradually relax, and in a short time had assumed their normal condition.

In *Erysipelas* of the face the internal and external use of *Gelseminum* is sometimes of much benefit as a palliative remedy.

Teeth and Jaws.—Stiffness of the jaws. Difficulty of opening the mouth.

CLINICAL REMARKS.—In some cases of facial neuralgia, especially in nervous females, the jaws seem to be spasmodically affected, *Gelseminum* may be useful in combatting that symptom.

In *Odontalgia* from a cold, or when purely nervous, *Gelseminum* may be useful. It is said that a bit of cotton wet in the tincture and applied to the tooth, or pushed into a cavity, will relieve the pain.

In Case 4, of poisoning by *Gelseminum*, when the medicine was taken for nervous toothache, the narrator remarks: "It is needless to say the toothache left him."

Mouth and Tongue.—Dryness of the mouth; astringent sensation in the mouth; thickly coated tongue; mawkish taste in the mouth; foetid breath; numbness of the tongue; painful dryness in the fauces. (*F. L. Vincent.*)

Tongue red; tongue red, raw and painful; sensation as if the tongue was paralyzed, impeding speech; partial paralysis of the glottis and tongue. (*Toxical effects.*)

Tongue coated with light, whitish coat. Several times during the day saliva was found colored yellowish, and all the latter part of the day a bad, foul taste and breath. (*J. C. Morgan.*)

CLINICAL REMARKS.—From its effects upon the tongue and glottis, we may find it curative in many cases of irritation, or paralysis of those parts.

Throat.—Dryness, irritation and soreness of the fauces; difficulty of swallowing; paralytic dysphagia; when vomiting, the fluids passed through the nostrils; acute sensation of heat and astringency. (*Toxical effects.*) Painful sensation of something having lodged in the œsophagus. (*Morgan.*)

I once observed the following symptoms, which occurred in a woman to whom it had been given to arrest daily hysteric convulsions. The patient had never experienced similar symptoms before. The *Tincture Gelseminum* was given in doses of ten drops every four

hours. The spasms were much relieved, and their periodicity broken up, but on the second day of its administration there appeared dryness and burning of the fauces; red inflamed tongue in the middle; severe burning in the œsophagus, from the mouth to the stomach; spasmodic sensation, and cramplike pains in œsophagus; hawking up of bloody matter. During the spasms, bloody, brown foam would run out of the mouth. The burning sensations at times seemed intolerable; deglutition was painful; food and drinks—warm—aggravated. At this juncture I was called, and for the relief of these symptoms gave *Arsenicum* 3d—then *Carbo vegetabilis* 3d, with mucilaginous drinks, but without much benefit. A more careful study of the symptoms determined me to try *Phosphorus*. Pellets of the second dilution were given with prompt success, relief followed in a few minutes after the first dose, and in a few days the symptoms disappeared. In this case there must have existed *Œsophagitis*,—a true inflammation of its mucous tissue. As the *Gelseminum* was taken largely diluted with water, it must have been a specific and not a mere local, effect.

CLINICAL REMARKS.—It may be found a valuable remedy in inflammation and irritation of the œsophagus from acrid secretions of the stomach.

Dr. White, of, Coldwater, Mich., praises the *Gelseminum* highly in Tonsillitis and inflammation of the pharynx, palate, and uvula. He considers it equal to *Belladonna* in Scarlatinous Angina.

I have only used it in slight *catarrhal* inflammations of the fauces and tonsils, in which it seemed to act favorably.

It would seem to be perfectly specific to paralysis of the glottis, and all other portions of the organs of deglutition. In all the above affections, the medium or high dilutions are best indicated, especially if the patient be susceptible to the action of the drugs, if not, large doses must be used.

Its action on the throat resembles very much the effects of *Belladonna*. *Dr. Douglas* advises it in inflammation of the tonsils, and other throat affections.

In the spasmodic affections of the throat so frequent in hysteric females, it is superior to any other drug, but will have to be given in material doses.

Taste, Appetite, Gastric Affections, &c—Thirst during the sweat; mawkish taste; clammy feverish taste; great hunger; eructations, nausea, hiccough. (*Douglas.*)

Yellowish-white coating of the tongue with fœtid breath; alternate increase and loss of appetite, slight nausea; sour eructations; bitter taste. (*F. L. Vincent.*)

Bad, foul, spoiled taste and breath, with frequent need to rinse the mouth, or spit; rising of tasteless, semi-solid matters in the œsophagus with flatus. (*J. C. Morgan.*)

CLINICAL REMARKS.—It is homœopathic to loss of appetite from debility of the stomach or a paralytic state of the organs of digestion, or increased appetite caused by active hyperæmia of the coats of the stomach.

It does not seem to be homœopathic to many gastric conditions, as it rarely causes nausea or eructations. It does not induce vomiting like *Veratrum viride*, *Ipecacuanha*, or *Tartarus emeticus*. It only causes vomiting when taken in large quantities, when it irritates by its bulk and acridity only. If useful in any variety of vomiting, it is in that form which arises from atony of the stomach, in which case *Nux vomica*, *Iron* and *China* are better.

Stomach.—Feeling of emptiness and weakness in the stomach and bowels. (*Douglas*.)

Rumbling and dull pains in the epigastrium relieved by expulsion of flatus. (*F. L. Vincent*.)

It causes burning in the stomach extending up to the mouth.

PATHOLOGY.—Active hyperæmia of the coats of the stomach; stomach distended with gas.

CLINICAL REMARKS.—Sensations of great weakness; emptiness; “goneness” at the stomach, arises from a debilitated state of the great sympathetic nerve, and may be uncomplicated with any other morbid state, in which case *Gelseminum* may be useful, in small doses.

It may, however, arise from congestion of the portal system, and a torpid state of the liver, in which case *Nux vomica*, *Aconitum*, *Lep-tandria*, *Podophyllum* or *Mercurius*, would be applicable, alternated with *Gelseminum*.

It is often caused by uterine congestion or prolapsus, when *Macro-tin*, *Helonin* or *Sepia* must be given.

Ignatia, *Coffea* or *Thea*, in cases caused by mere nervous excitement or sudden emotion.

It is primarily homœopathic to accumulation of flatus in the stomach, distention, eructations and dull pain, probably caused by want of tone in the muscular fibres of that organ. For such symptoms the 2d or 3d dilutions will suffice.

It is secondarily homœopathic to many forms of gastralgia, cardi-algia, cramps in the stomach, and all spasmodic conditions of that organ.

It is homœopathic to *congestion* of the stomach, with hyperæmia of its mucous lining. The symptoms indicating its use are: sensation of a heavy load, with weight, tension and dull pain, sometimes with empty, faint, empty sensations in the epigastrium, and a false hunger—a kind of gnawing.

Of late, the *Gelseminum* is much used in all active hemorrhages, by the Eclectic and Allopathic school. They rely upon its sedative power.

Many other remedies, however, will prove more useful in the affection. In active hemorrhage, *Hammamelis*, *Ipecacuanha* and *Erigeron*; in passive variety, *Trillium*, *Terebinthina* and *Sulphuric acid* will be found efficient remedies.

(I have often observed that blood is almost *always* mixed with the fluids vomited, while under the emetic effects of *Veratrum viride*, and I have often checked severe vomitings of bile, *mixed* with blood, with the 2d dilution of that remedy.)

Abdomen and Stool.—Slight pain in the transverse colon; gnawing pain in the transverse colon. Seventeen hours after taking the drug was awakened by severe gripings in the lower abdomen, soon followed by a very large and natural stool, but followed by no diminution of pain until another large, deeply bilious discharge followed by instant relief of pain. (*Douglas.*)

Evacuation of flatulence both ways; movements of flatus in the lower bowels; slight colicky feeling as if the bowels would be moved and constant eructations of wind and bland fluid. At breakfast dull ache on the right side of the head; gastric oppression; had to loosen the waistbands; after which colicky sensations to the left of the navel as if a stool would shortly be passed. Slow stool, leaving a sensation of more remaining to be passed, and of abdominal repletion. Pain behind the fifth rib to the left of the sternum, from flatus, relieved by eructation. Stool at first consistent, then papescent, bilious, homogeneous, preceded all the morning by flatulence. Coincident with the intoxicated feeling, gastralgia and colic. Colicky pains below the navel, extending to the testes, and causing flatus, relieved by its expulsion. Stool of a deep yellow color, and papescent. Soft, bilious stool, preceded by threatenings of diarrhœa. Colic; attempted stool, much wind only passed. Tea-colored, semi-solid stool. (*J. C. Morgan.*)

Dull pains in the abdomen. Sharp pains in the bowels with stools of a light creamy color and pappy consistence. Sleep disturbed by lancinating pains in abdomen, relieved by copious discharges of flatus. Intoxicated feeling, with painless but slightly diarrhœic stool. (*F. L. Vincent.*) Tenderness of the abdominal parietes. (*Hale.*)

Writers of the Dominant and Eclectic schools have decreed that *Gelsemium* does not act as an internal irritant, or a purgative. They assert that it is not known to increase any of the intestinal secretions. Homœopathic provings seem to lead us to different conclusions, as many of the above abdominal symptoms demonstrate.

PATHOLOGY. In Dogs killed with *Gelsemium* there is generally found active hyperæmia of the mucous membrane of the bowels, and congestion of the capillary vessels of the intestines, (*Dr. Miller.*) In my experiments on dogs no painful symptoms seemed to arise, which, from the actions of the animal, could be referred to the abdomen; no purgative effect, and no distention of the bowels either before or after death. But the large doses which were given may have prevented such effect. Possibly, had the animal been given smaller doses for several days regularly, some abdominal symptoms of a prominent nature would have been developed.

CLINICAL REMARKS. If *Gelseminum* be homœopathic to Colic, it is to the *Spasmodic* and *Flatulent*. As either of these varieties may run into and induce the other, we will consider them in one paragraph. Flatulence is generally caused by the imperfect digestion of articles of food, some kinds of which, such as raw vegetables, and substances of a fermentable nature, are more prone to have that effect. But in a perfectly healthy state of the digestive organs, all varieties of food may be eaten with impunity. The powers of digestion then, must be morbidly enfeebled before flatulent or spasmodic Colic can ensue. Any cause, therefore, which is capable of debilitating digestion, may act as a cause of flatulence.

In *Peritonitis* we cannot expect much specific benefit from *Gelseminum*, except from its power to control the fever and the nervous crethism from excessive pain. While it might not be as valuable as *Aconite*, it would be better than *Veratrum viride* or *Tartarus emeticus*. An external application of the Tincture in peritoneal inflammation might allay the pain somewhat. (I have used *Aconite* for that purpose with the best results.)

In *Enteritis* it may prove more valuable. As it causes congestion and hyperæmia of the intestines, it may prove homœopathic to the *first stages* of acute Enteritis. It will probably be useful to restrain the spasmodic action of the bowels, which is often a distressing symptom of this disease.

In *Neuralgia* of the Intestines I have found the Tincture, in single drop doses, given every 15 minutes, to be a successful remedy. The symptoms were acute, lancinating pains in the bowels, with great agitation and restlessness, cold hands and feet, rapid pulse, and a tendency to general spasms.

In *Strangulated Hernia*, the *Gelseminum* in sufficient pathogenetic doses, *ought* to be a most valuable aid. More relaxing than Chloroform or Lobelia, or Opium, it is surprising that physicians and surgeons of the other schools have not resorted to its use. It would be the first medicine I should resort to, and no remedy holds forth greater promise of usefulness in such dangerous accidents. Its internal administration would be aided much by external application.

In *Diarrhœa*, *Gelseminum* may prove useful when the stools are bilious, papescent, and accompanied by much flatulence; also when there is much nervous prostration—more weakness than the discharge could cause. It *will not* be found useful in diarrhœa with watery, mucous, or profuse discharges; or in looseness from indigestion.

Dr. Morgan noticed that while proving the drug, any exciting news would bring on "threatenings of diarrhœa." This fact is suggestive. We know that in certain impressible people, whose nervous system has become enervated, any fright, excitement or emotion will cause a temporary looseness of the bowels. Now the effects of *Gelseminum* on the system are just such as would make it homœopathic to such conditions and its effects.

In *Dysentery*, so far as my experience goes, the results attained are very similar to those noticed from the use of *Aconite*, viz: subsidence of the inflammatory symptoms, disappearance of blood from the stools, less fever, and a mitigation of the tenesmus. I have treated many severe cases with it, in alternation with *Mercurius*, *Podophyllum*, *Ipecacuanha* and *Aloes*. Besides its internal administration, I adopted the suggestion of Coe and others, and used the Tincture in an enema, in the proportion of ten drops to four ounces of warm starch or gum water; injecting all at once, and repeating every few hours. It mitigated the severe tenesmus.

In *Constipation* *Gelseminum* does not appear to be primarily indicated, in many cases. It may be useful in simple retention of stool from deficiency of tone in the muscular coats of the intestines, [in 2nd or 3d dilution.] It may be useful also in Constipation from *spasm* of the muscular coats, at some point in the intestinal tube, in drop doses of tincture.

In the Southern States it is much used, in infusion, as a domestic remedy for intestinal worms, and with alleged success. Dr. COE advises the *Gelsemin* in $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 grain doses, two or three times a day, combined with *Podophyllin* and *Santonin*, and says it has proved effectual in expelling the *ascaris lumbricoides* and *tricocephalus dispar*. I have had unusual success in treating worm affections with the *Gelsemin*—2nd trituration, alternated with *Podophyllin* 1st or 2d, and *Santonin* one-tenth—each in grain doses two hours apart. After two or three days the worms are either expelled in large numbers, or the verminous symptoms all disappear. A weak dilution of the Tincture injected into the rectum, will often bring away large quantities of *ascarides*.

Liver and Spleen. The provings of *Gelseminum* so far do not show any pains or abnormal sensations referred to the hepatic or splenic regions. Its effect upon the alvine evacuations, however, show that it has some effect upon the *Liver*.

For instance, we have,—“large, deeply bilious discharge; bilious, papescent stool; stool of deep yellow color, and papescent; soft bilious stool”; all denoting increased action of the liver.

We have also “tea-colored stool; stool of a light creamy color, and pappy consistence,” indicating a deficient amount of bile in the evacuations. Judging from these symptoms, we may consider it primarily homœopathic to some forms of *bilious diarrhœa*, probably from a relaxed condition of the biliary ducts, or the ductus communis choledochus, or it may be to hepatic hyperæmia.

It is probably primarily homœopathic to passive congestion of the Liver, denoted by prostration and a languid circulation; languor, dullness, drowsiness, or depression of spirits, dimness of sight, and dull headache.

Jaundice, with prostration, clay-colored stool, &c. There are two

symptoms above mentioned, viz.: tea-colored, [slate-colored?], and creamy, papescent stool, which indicate that *Gelseminum* causes either deficiency or retention of bile. Now from what we know of the action of the medicine, it is hardly to be supposed that it can cause, primarily, any excessive secretion of bile. But it may cause *deficient* secretion, from atony of the liver, in which case the yellow coloring matter of the bile would fail to be eliminated from the blood, and its accumulation in the circulation would be a necessary consequence. This Wood believes to be the most common origin of Jaundice. [*Gelseminum*, 3d dilution, alternated with *Mercurius*, *Leptandrin*, or *Podophyllin*, 1st, would be most applicable in such conditions.

The *Gelseminum* seems to have a specific effect upon the nerves and muscles of the Rectum. Dr. White, of Coldwater, Michigan, has seen it cause paralysis of the Sphincter ani, with tendency to prolapsed Rectum.

Urinary Organs. Urine rather increased in quantity; clear and watery; frequent micturition. (*Douglas*.) Frequent emission of clear and limpid urine, with seeming relief to the dullness and heaviness of the head. Urine at times clear and limpid; at times milky and turbid. (*F. L. Vincent*.)

[Bird, "Urinary Deposits," p. 210, says that it is a characteristic of phosphatic urine to be pale and colorless; also that such urine deposits pale urate of ammonia, nearly white. Phosphatic urine is often foetid.]

"The effects of *Gelseminum* were dissipated within a few hours. As I have remarked an augmented secretion of urine, I suppose my kidneys eliminated the drug rapidly and so prevented its action on the divers organic spheres." (*Dr. M. E. Lazarus*.)

I [Hale] have noticed symptoms similar to the above, whilst under the influence of the drug; and in nearly every instance the profuse emission of watery urine was accompanied by transient chilliness, tremulousness, and an evident alleviation of the sensations of heaviness of the head, dullness of mind, and dimness of sight. Several persons who made partial provings for me, noticed the same symptoms, with the alleviation.

Contrasting the above effects of *Gelseminum* on the urinary organs, with some of the phenomena of disease, and they become interesting and significant.

In real Diabetes *Gelseminum* cannot be of much service. It is probably not pathologically indicated. In Nephritis, Cystitis and Urethritis it may be used as we would use *Aconite* in similar diseases, viz.: to reduce the local hyperæmia. In these affections we must rely entirely upon the secondary action of the drug; using it in larger doses.

In my practice it has benefitted some cases of frequent urging to urinate, with scanty emission, attended with tenesmus of the bladder.

In Enuresis *Gelseminum* ought to prove as valuable a remedy as *Belladonna*, for it caused involuntary urination in dogs, and, like that drug induces a *paralytic state* of all the sphincter muscles. Those cases, then, of involuntary micturition depending on a relaxed or paralytic condition of the sphincter muscles of the neck of the bladder, may be much benefitted, or cured by the use of the dilutions of *Gelseminum*.

Gelseminum will probably prove useful in spasms of the Ureters, from the passage of Calculi. In this most painful affection, the object is to produce, in the promptest manner possible, a relaxation of the ureters. This is generally accomplished by the use of hot sitting-baths, Chloroform, Lobelia or Nux vomica. *Gelseminum*, if properly administered, would prove as efficient as either of the above means, and (secondarily) more homœopathic to the condition.

In that most distressing affection, *Spasm of the bladder*, it would certainly prove useful, by promptly relaxing the circular fibres of that organ.

This disease is often confounded, in females, with uterine spasm, and in males with spasmodic colic. But in either disease *Gelseminum* will prove a valuable remedy, aided in some cases by Caulophyllin, Macrotin, Colocynth or Nux vomica.

Genital Organs.—(1) MALE. Some irritability of the right testis, and afterwards dragging pain in the same, extending to both groins, and the hypogastrium, followed by escape of flatus. Irritation of small spots on the mucous surface of the prepuce, with surrounding congestion. Painless redness about the orifice of the urethra. (*Dr. J. C. Morgan.*)

Agreeable sensation during micturition throughout the course of the urethra. (*Dr. F. L. Vincent.*)

One of the most careful and conscientious provers in our ranks, writes me as follows—"a seminal weakness, formerly removed by *Conium*, returned during this proving, and was the chief reason why I discontinued it." In this statement we have an important discovery, which throws much light on the action of this remedy upon the male generative system, and accounts for its alleged usefulness in seminal emissions.

My own provings of *Gelseminum*, developed the following symptoms: In connection with the general prostration, accompanied by diuresis there was always much flaccidity with coldness of the genital organs.

CLINICAL REMARKS.—*Gelseminum* is primarily indicated in *impotence* from muscular paralysis and atony; in *seminal emissions* with or without amorous dreams, but caused in all cases by direct debility of the genital organs, or, rather, of the great nerves, upon which depends their healthy condition. It is also secondarily homœopathic to seminal emissions from excessive irritation of the organs of generation, either from emotional or local congestive causes, and when accompanied by a condition similar to *Satyriasis*.

In the former cases small doses of the dilutions may prove efficient, but in the latter, large quantities will have to be administered—two or three drops of the tincture every two hours. I have used the first trituration of *Gelsemin* in cases marked by local irritation, and succeeded in effecting a cure, when other remedies had failed. The following cases are taken from allopathic authorities.

Coe says:—"For spermatorrhœa, in connection with tonics we have found it of exceeding utility. In many cases it is better to administer the *Gelseminum* alone for several days, or until a remission of the symptoms is induced, and then follow with tonics—*Cerasin*, *Lupulin*, or *Hydrastin*."

Case I. In *Keith's Journal of Materia Medica*, for January 1861, is found a letter from a physician, stating that—

"About four years ago, I was badly afflicted with spermatorrhœa, and had nearly despaired of finding relief, for I had tried every plan of treatment suggested by my medical friends. I acceded to your advice to try *Gelsemin* and had taken but four doses [*of how much?*] before the emissions ceased, and by continuing the medicine my appetite returned, the peculiar cadaverous hue of my face yielded to a more healthy color, and, as subsequent years have proved, I was cured of my disease."

In the November No., 1860, we have the following statement:—

"We believe it to be, in the treatment of spermatorrhœa, as near a specific as any medicine can be. Administer the following powder each night on retiring:—

Recipe—*Gelsemin*, $\frac{1}{2}$ grain,
 Lupulin, $\frac{3}{8}$ grains. *Mix.*

Gradually diminish the dose as the patient shows signs of improvement. We have cured several cases with from six to ten doses."

The above prescription could benefit only those cases belonging to the irritative variety, due to some local congestion or exalted state of the nerves of those organs. The *Lupulin* alone has a deserved reputation for curing similar cases of the disease.

In *Gonorrhœa* the *Gelseminum* has been much used, and highly praised by some enthusiastic Eclectics. According to Coe, "*Gelsemin* has gained considerable repute in the treatment of gonorrhœa. We have employed it for some three years past, in that disease, but have never relied on it exclusively. Our principal object in employing it, is to overcome the urethral inflammation and prevent chordee, and for these purposes we have found it reliable. We usually administer it at bed time, finding that the patient is more apt to enjoy a quiet night's rest thereby. We cannot say with certainty whether the *Gelsemin* possesses any specific alterative value in the above disease, or not, but we believe it does."

He advises it in 2 grain doses, but small powders of the 1st decimal trituration, or repeated doses of the 1st dilution, will probably be found as useful, and less hazardous than the one large dose.

CASE. Dr. John Douglas states that some thirty years ago a patient came into his office with gonorrhœa of several months standing, which had been improperly treated. One of his pupils begged him to allow him to treat the case, saying he could cure the most obstinate case in a few days with the

root of *Yellow Jessamine*. A small handful of the root was put into a common junk bottle of whiskey, and the patient ordered, in a day or two, to take a tablespoonful of the mixture night and morning. He took but a few doses when he became much alarmed with the effect upon his eyes, thinking the medicine had destroyed his vision.

Every symptom of gonorrhœa had, however, disappeared, and the cure was permanent. Since that time he has treated many cases with it, and invariably with the same success.

Dr. Morgan writes me:—The *Gelsemium* is in repute for the cure of Spermatorrhœa, and an Allopath of my acquaintance uses the tincture in the very largest doses, in Gonorrhœa, with, as he asserts, perfect success, even in old cases.

(2.) FEMALE. Besides the few pathogenetic symptoms which I have observed, none of the provers of our school give us any symptoms of *Gelsemium* upon the female organs of generation. The following symptoms came under my notice:

Sensation of heaviness in the uterine region, with increase of the white, leucorrhœal discharge. A feeling of fullness in the hypogastrium [in a girl of 17.]

Slight uterine pain, (to which she had not been subject,) aching across the sacrum—a sensation as when the menses are coming on. [These symptoms appeared from taking 5 drops of the tincture every two hours—in a pregnant female in the 9th week. [On examination the os was slightly open and somewhat patulous.]

Notwithstanding the small amount of experience which the profession possess relative to the action of *Gelsemium* on the female organs of generation, there seems to be considerable unanimity of opinion among Eclectic authors, regarding its effects in that direction. We will examine the testimony and then see if it will bear a critical analysis.

Prof. King, who seems to understand its sphere of action very well, and has had much practical experience in the use of the medicine says—“In obstetrics it has been efficaciously employed in dysmenorrhœa, abortion, to allay the nausea and vomiting of pregnancy, or of labor, in gastralgia, cramps, and odontalgia during pregnancy, in rheumatism of the uterus, rigid os uteri, hour-glass contraction, retained placenta, puerperal fever, puerperal convulsions, &c.

We will examine its merits in the above affections briefly in detail.

In *Dysmenorrhœa* of a neuralgic or spasmodic character, the *Gelsemium* would undoubtedly prove beneficial in material doses; minute doses would fail to reach the malady, because dysmenorrhœa is not one of the primary effects of the drug. Its neuralgic and spasmodic symptoms are secondary. But in the congestive form the dilutions will be useful.

In the inflammatory form, *King* advises it, in connection with tincture of *Aconite*, both in large doses.

Coe asserts that “for relieving the pains of *Dysmenorrhœa* we know

of no single remedy equal to it." He gives $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of *Gelsemin* every two hours, and frequently alternates *Caulophyllin* or *Viburnin* with it, both of the latter remedies I know to be valuable in this affection. He further says—"When caused by functional derangement we deem it specific; we have earned the gratitude of many sufferers by its employment." I would advise a candid trial of the remedy in the hands of Homœopaths.

In *Amenorrhœa*, COE advises it, and says the menses will frequently return under the use of half grain doses of *Gelsemin*, three times a day. In the congestive variety, induced by a cold, it will undoubtedly prove of service.

In *Abortion*, KING recommends it on the ground that it will have the same effect as blood-letting in preventing that accident. COE says:

"The opinion has been entertained by some that the *Gelseminum* is capable of producing abortion, but our experience with it, inclines us to the contrary belief. As before stated, when administered in *small doses*, it *gently stimulates uterine contraction*, but when given in *large doses*, it *will arrest the progress of labor with much certainty*. Still, we are unable to say that it will not produce abortion under some circumstances, although we have never seen any evidence of its power to do so, and we have administered it to females at all the different stages of utero gestation."

Drs. White and Ford thought that when used in Yellow Fever, the *Gelseminum* rather prevented abortion, as one woman so treated, was in the sixth month of pregnancy, and did not abort.

Still, *my* observations convince me that under some circumstances the medicine may be capable of causing abortion. The pathogenetic symptoms above noticed would go far to substantiate such a belief. Let it be borne in mind that anything which has a severe depressing influence upon the nervous and vascular systems may cause miscarriage. Thus, profuse bleedings, a chill, debility from acute disease, grief, fright or other depressing emotions, will in some constitutions tend to such an accident.

Now the effects of this drug on the female organism, is very similar to the above, and may therefore under similar circumstances bring on the same results. Its general action on the uterus will be considered further on.

In the *vomiting* and *gastrodynia* of pregnant females, when of a spasmodic character, *Gelseminum* may prove beneficial. Some writer has called attention to the similarity between *this* vomiting and sea-sickness. It is a curious fact that the remedies found beneficial in the *one*, are those most useful in the *other*. Thus *nux vomica*, *cocculus* and *chloroform* are *the* remedies for sea-sickness, and I have found equally reliable in the severe vomitings of pregnancy.

As *Gelseminum* bears a remarkable resemblance to the last mentioned agent, I would advise its use in single drop doses, in cases where the usual medicines had failed to give relief, and where there was present considerable nervous debile irritability.

The troublesome *cramps* of pregnancy, although generally amenable to the usual *Veratrum album*, *Colocynth* and *Nux vomica* may be controlled as readily by the use of *Caulophyllin*, *Viburnin* and *Gelsemin*.

KING in his "*Obstetrics*" speaks of using it in hour-glass contractions, and inversion of the uterus, in order to aid manual operations, but doubts its safety under *all* circumstances. In these cases it would be expected to have many of the effects of Chloroform, especially *relaxation*.

He also strongly advises its use in *puerperal* convulsions.

In the treatment of the form of puerperal convulsions depending on *Uræmia*, I should place much reliance on the remedial powers of *Gelseminum*. It will be found of much service in moderating the violence of the fits as well as to run off by its diuretic effects, some of the urea and carbonate of ammonia upon which the primary morbid condition depends.

Of the use of *Gelseminum* in *rigid os uteri*, Dr. KING says:

"It has within the last few years, been recommended to overcome this difficulty, and I have administered it in a considerable number of cases with benefit. It possesses an advantage over *Lobelia* in not causing nausea and vomiting, but as a general rule its influence is not so readily experienced as with that drug, and when once effected is of a more permanent character."

[Do not give so much then, Doctor.]

Prof. Cleveland, Dr. L. E. Miller, and many other writers eminent in the Eclectic and Allopathic schools speak very highly of the use of *Gelseminum* in difficult labor from rigidity of the *os* or *vagina*. They consider it much more efficient, and its administration attended with less suffering and danger than *Chloroform*, *Belladonna*, *Lobelia* or artificial dilatation.

I am not aware that it has yet been recommended in Homœopathic practice, but I do not hesitate to declare it superior to any remedy usually recommended in our school. It may be applied locally to the *os*, in the form of the glycerole of *Gelseminum*; one to two drams should be rubbed into the rigid *os*, with the finger.

CROSERIO advises the administration of a few pellets of the 30th [!] of *Belladonna*.

Jahr says, "If the neck should remain closed, and a hard rim should be felt all around the orifice, three globules of *Belladonna* dry upon the tongue will bring about the regular evolution of the progress of labor," or "if the dilatation of the vagina proceed too slowly, or be too painful, a few doses of *Coffea*, *Secale*, *Pulsatilla* or *Nux vomica*, will remedy this trouble."

This latter prescription is much more scientific than the former for *Coffea*, *Secale*, *Pulsatilla* and *Nux vomica* undoubtedly cause rigidity of the vagina and *os uteri*, as a primary effect. But there is not a particle of proof that *Belladonna* does. On the contrary, the well-known and invariable primary effect of *Belladonna* is to cause paralysis or relaxation of all the sphincter muscles.

Gelseminum has many points of resemblance to *Belladonna*, but none more similar than its effect on the sphincter and circular muscles,

all of which are primarily relaxed and even paralyzed. It dilates the pupil, paralyzes the glottis, relaxes the sphincter of the bladder and rectum, and those muscles of the os uteri and vagina, upon which their contractile power depends.

While, then, it has a similar action to the *Belladonna*, it can be used with greater safety, for its effects are generally transient, and may be controlled, if excessive, by such a general remedy as common salt, or specific, such as *Secale* or *Caulophyllum*.

The large doses of *Gelseminum* advised by Eclectics, are not necessary. From two to five drops of the tincture, or even first dilution, if good, will, in most cases, be found sufficient.

There is one other argument for the use of *Gelseminum* in some difficult labors, which, if made reliable by the test of observation and experience will bring the medicine into deservedly high repute. I allude to the statement made by several prominent writers, but particularly *Coe*, whom I quote as follows:

"Some division of opinion exists in relation to the true action of this remedy upon the uterus. We have had considerable experience in the treatment of female disorders, and have used the preparations of *Gelseminum* quite extensively. For five years past we have employed it as a *parturifacient*, and with better satisfaction than any other remedy. We use it for the purpose of relieving cramps, or other spasmodic difficulties, vertigo, nervous irritability, wakefulness, and other symptoms accompanying gestation. It seems to prepare the system for the parturient effort, and labor is completed in an unusually short period of time. When administered in small doses, it *gently stimulates uterine contraction*, but when given in large doses it will *arrest* the progress of labor, *with much certainty*."

The same writer seeks to account for this and other peculiarities of its action as follows:

"*Gelseminum* is one of those medicines which are peculiarly governed in their action, by the quantity administered. Thus in small doses it acts as a gentle stimulant and tonic to the nervous system, giving vigor and harmony of action; while in large doses it proves a powerful relaxant, completely prostrating the muscular system, and by overstimulating the brain and nerves, produces irregular and disturbed nervous action."

This sentence undoubtedly embodies the real sphere of action of this wonderful remedy, as well as the true *rationale* of its curative powers in disease. The explanation is worthy the staunchest disciple of Hahnemann, for it indicates as strongly as *words* can, that it cures according to the law of *Similia*, i. e., *it cures in small doses, that which it causes in large*.

Air Passages.—Paroxysms of hoarseness with dryness of the throat; voice seems weak. [*Douglas*].

Sneezing followed by tingling and fulness in the nose, sneezing, with dull headache. Tingling in nose. (*J. C. Morgan*.)

Paralysis of the glottis, with difficulty of swallowing; ineffectual efforts to articulate; voice thick, as if the tongue was too large; cough from tickling and dry roughness of the fauces; burning in the larynx

and down in the chest, under the sternum; a sensation of soreness in the chest when coughing. [*Hale*]

PATHOLOGY. Mucous membrane of the larynx and bronchia red and congested.

CLINICAL REMARKS. Dr. Douglas considers it almost a specific in ordinary catarrhal fever with the usual symptoms of sneezing, watery coryza, soreness of the throat, and cough with rawness in the chest.

During the winter of 1860-'61 I treated a great many cases of severe influenza, then epidemic, in which the symptoms much resembled the above,*only more intense, often nearly approaching to acute bronchitis. *Gelseminum* was the principal remedy relied upon. It seemed to act very favorably in cutting short, or modifying the disease. Only a few cases needed Phosphorus or Mercurius iodatus in alternation.

In *Acute Bronchitis* it will doubtless be found as useful as Aconite or Tartar emetic.

In *Croup*, I have had no experience with it, except in one case of Spasmodic, in which a few doses seemed to arrest it.

In *Aphonia*, from catarrhal paralysis it is fully indicated, in small doses.

Thoracic Organs.—Stitching sensation in the region of the heart. Constrictive pain around the lower part of the chest. [*Douglas.*]

Offensive breath; slow breathing and slow pulse, (primary) followed by rapid breathing, and quick, weak pulse (secondary). Sudden sensation of suffocation, as in hysteria. Respiration almost imperceptible. Sighing respiration. (In men). [*Hale.*]

Breathing unnaturally slow. Heavy and labored respirations. Inspirations, were of a sighing, catching character. Slow breathing with rapid pulse (primary).

Respiration hurried and seemingly painful. Inspirations long with croupy sound. Expirations sudden and forcible. Sterterous breathing, like one in apoplexy,—with coma and convulsions, followed by rapid breathing, collapse and death, (secondary). (See cases of poisoning in dogs).

PATHOLOGY.—No post mortem examinations have ever been made on persons killed by *Gelseminum*, but the following pathological appearances have been observed by Dr. T. C. Miller, and myself, in animals poisoned by the medicine:

Active Hyperæmia of the lungs; Lungs highly congested, heavy, sinking in water, but evidently not inflamed. Lungs bluish at the base. crepitating but little, and filled with venous blood.

CLINICAL REMARKS.—But few painful symptoms of the chest have been observed by the provers of *Gelseminum*. This I presume can be accounted for on the supposition which the pathological appearances seem to uphold, that it does not cause inflammation, or any disturbance of the nerves of sensation of the thoracic organs. In this respect

it ranks with Aconite and Veratrum viride. It undoubtedly first attacks the nerves which control the respiratory movements, acting primarily as a sedative, causing more or less paralysis; and secondarily, irritating the same respiratory nerves into *irregular* and *spasmodic* action, with concomitant hyperæmia. The venous congestion, I imagine to be the result of an inability of the veins to *return* the blood to the heart, from paralysis.

The secondary symptoms shown by the dogs, were evidently of a spasmodic character, as regards the respiratory efforts, while the primary respiratory symptoms, were as evidently the result of a sedative influence on the nerves.

The *therapeutic sphere* of *Gelseminum* in thoracic affections may be briefly summed up.

It is *primarily* indicated in *paralysis* or debility of the lungs, of a nervous origin; and in passive congestion.

It is *secondarily* indicated in all affections of the lungs and pleura, which are marked by erethism, or vascular irritation; or when congestion is to be feared, or is already present; also in all spasmodic affections of the lungs and diaphragm, such as convulsive hiccough, certain forms of asthma, spasms of the air passages, convulsive coughs, &c.

In real Pneumonia and Pleurisy, it is not truly homœopathic, but may be used with benefit.

The remarks of Dr. Marcy, relative to the action of Aconite on the lungs, are perfectly applicable—it appears to me—to *Gelseminum*.

“It is highly probable, as we have already observed, that many of the pulmonary symptoms, produced by Aconite, are due to its specific action upon the brain, rather than any direct impressions on the lungs. Normal respiration and circulation can only be sustained by an unimpaired condition of the brain. Even when the impression upon this organ is slight, we observe an immediate change in the action of the heart and lungs. The inhalation of Chloroform or Ether, for example, which exercises a specific influence upon the brain, causes an almost immediate acceleration of respiration and circulation—the pulse often rising to 140, and the respirations to 26 or more, in the minute.”

I have called attention already to the similarity of *Gelseminum* to Chloroform.

It is probable that as soon as the *Gelseminum* produces a decided impression upon the brain, the symptoms of pulmonary sedation cease, because counteracted by the cerebral influences, and we have acceleration of the respiration and circulation.

Let it be borne in mind too, that in some spinal diseases, various spasmodic affections of the lungs set in. The influence of *Gelseminum* on the spinal cord may induce similar symptoms.

Dr. Douglas says:—

“In the first stage of the disease (Pneumonia) as in most other inflammatory diseases, *Gelseminum* is capable of breaking up the disease in the first twenty-

four hours by producing free perspiration. Repeat it as occasion requires till the fever and pain abate. *Gelseminum* is more prompt and effectual than Aconite and Bryonia if given at an early stage."

Back.—Pain in the back as in the cold stage of ague, (in many cases). (*Dr. Douglas.*)

Chilliness and chills running up the back from the loins to the nape of the neck. (*Dr. F. L. Vincent.*)

Rheumatic pains in the left side of the neck. Contractive sensations in the right side of the neck. A settled, dull, dragging headache, mainly in the occiput, mastoid, and upper cervical region, extending to the shoulders, relieved when sitting, and by reclining the head and shoulders on a high pillow; aching in the left anterior part of the trapezius muscle. Thirst, languor, and aching in the sacroiliac and lumbar regions, and the lower part of the left thigh, as when a fever is commencing. (*Dr. J. C. Morgan.*)

CLINICAL REMARKS.—It is homœopathic and curative,—as I have often verified—in many of those aches and pains in the back, shoulders, neck and occiput, which so often precede or follow attacks of ague, or nervous fevers;—also when these or similar pains are of a neuralgic nature, arising from some form of spinal irritation; or come on as the result of a cold, having somewhat of a rheumatic character.

I predict that it will prove to be homœopathic to many of those anomalous cases of spinal irritation, or chronic myelitis, which resist the usual remedies, *Nux Vomica*, *Ignatia*, *Belladonna*, *Agaricus*, *Macrotin* or *Aconite*.

In paralytic conditions of the lumbar or sacral muscles, it is especially indicated.

The dog killed by *Gelseminum*, showed decided symptoms of opisthotonos. The muscles of the neck and dorsal region were at times spasmodically contracted, throwing the muzzle of the animal nearly perpendicular. It may, therefore be found curative in this form of convulsion.

Upper Extremities. Coldness of the wrists and hands. (*Dr. Douglas.*)

Itching about the elbows and fore arms. Some heat and dryness of the hands. Hands, especially the palms, feel hot and dry. Drawing-aching about the left elbow. (*Dr. Morgan.*)

From large doses, the arms become powerless, with loss of voluntary motion; sensation remains intact.

In dogs the fore legs were not paralyzed until some time after the hinder limbs. In attempting to walk—dragging the posterior extremities—the fore legs tottered as if weak, and finally gave way; then clonic contractions seized them.

It would seem to be homœopathic to paralysis of the arms, with

loss of motion, but not sensation, (the reverse is true of Aconite), also when the paralyzed arms are affected with cramps and contractions.

It may be found useful in some forms of rheumatism of the arms induced by a cold, and not inflammatory, attended with loss of motion.

Lower Extremities. Coldness of the extremities, especially the feet, often severe; feet feel as if in cold water, aguish feeling, with pain in the legs; pain in popliteal spaces. (*Dr. Douglas.*)

Aching in the left rectus femoris muscle, and drawing in the right calf; transient crampy pain in the inner part of the thigh when walking; rheumatic pain in the right knee and left side of the neck, the latter when lying down, the former when walking. While walking, a feeling in the knee joint as if the relation of the bones were deranged and did not fit, as in partial luxation; pains in the left thigh and knee; sudden catch or twist in the inside of the patella. (*Dr. J. C. Morgan.*)

Paralytic symptoms made themselves manifest throughout the entire muscular system—first experienced in the knee and then in the inferior tibial region, increased unto falling. Loss of voluntary motion in the lower extremities. Fatigue of the lower limbs after slight exercise. Soreness in the gastrocnemii muscles as if they had been beaten. (*Dr. F. L. Vincent.*)

The paralysis caused by *Gelseminum* is first manifested in the lower limbs, which become weak and then powerless, but with no loss of sensation, at least not until the near approach of death.

The dogs dragged their posterior extremities for some time before general paralysis took place. While paralyzed, the limbs were afflicted with clonic spasms.

It seems to be homœopathic to rheumatic pains in the legs, accompanied by crampy sensations, and weakness of the knees.

Skin. The *Gelseminum* produces a very marked eruption in most of the cases. It appears on the face most frequently, but sometimes also upon the back, between the shoulders. It is papulous, very much the color of measles, which it closely resembles, but the papulæ are more distant and distinct. Though very conspicuous, they are attended with little or no sensation—the patient being unaware of any eruption until he happens to see himself. Persons have frequently been asked what was the matter, or if they had the measles, when they were not aware of the eruption. It generally appears the second or third day of the proving, and continues one or two weeks more. (*Drs. Douglas and Snelling's Provings.*)

An eruption of vesico-pustules—painless, but having no other analogy with measles, appeared during my proving on the inside of my thighs. (*Dr. M. E. Lazarus.*)

Intense but transient itching of small points on the face, at the edge of the hair, and on the scalp, pimple, quite sore, having the areola embracing the diameter of a pea, red and inflamed, (such an eruption not experienced at any other time.) The pimple appeared on the forehead and neck, sore to the touch, and seemed like small cutaneous indurations, or minute furunculi. They finally disappeared without suppuration. (*Dr. J. C. Morgan.*)

During its use—in yellow fever—a constant erythema of the skin was noticed, and a redness of the tongue; neither appearing during the administration of *Veratrum viride*. (*Drs. White and Ford—Allopathic.*)

CLINICAL REMARKS.—Its action on the skin is at once specific and peculiar. Taking into consideration its catarrhal symptoms, and we may consider it indicated in measles, as well as some other painless non-suppurating eruptions.

Its use in erysipelas and exanthematous fever, has already been alluded to. *Dr. Coe* writes :

“We have found the tincture an excellent remedy for poisoning by the *Rhus toxicodendron* and *Rhus radicans*. Dilute the tincture with from four to eight parts of water and apply as directed for erysipelas, keeping the parts constantly moistened with it. If there be any febrile excitement present, administer the tincture internally at the same time. * * * We have experienced the value of this remedy in our own person and can recommend it as reliable. Other practitioners have used it with success. * * Many forms of skin diseases [*what?*] may be benefitted and cured by the internal and external application of the tincture.”

Sleep. Disposition to sleep; a sort of stupor; cannot keep the eyes open; is obliged to lie down and sleep. Drowsiness and long sound sleep are very general symptoms. (*Douglas.*)

Drowsiness with dimness of vision; a kind of drunken stupor. Heaviness of the eyes as after night watching. (*F. L. Vincent.*)

At first it seemed to cause drowsiness, afterwards aggravated the habitual sleeplessness. (*M. E. Lazarus.*)

Unusually sound morning sleep, with difficult, weary waking (after taking 25 drops the day and evening previous.) Languor and drowsiness when trying to study,—slept an hour in the afternoon, and on being roused felt unwilling at first to move,—eyes transiently blood-shot. (*J. C. Morgan.*)

It cannot be considered a narcotic ranking with *opium*. Still it has some narcotic traits, in common with *Aconite*, *Chloroform*, *Alcohol*, or *Hyoscyamus*. Unless taken in large quantities, it rarely induces sleep by its *direct* effects, but it may give sleep by removing nervous erethism. It more resembles the so called *nervines*, *Scutellaria*, *Cypripedium*, &c.

The dogs, poisoned with *Gelseminum*, seemed sleepy, and “nodded” while under its effects. But actual deep sleep did not appear until

the last moments, and then in the form of Coma, with heavy, stertorous breathing. (*Apoplectic Coma.*)

We have the following opinions of writers of other schools:

Professor Tully considers it a narcotic, and places it in a group with Spigelia.

"It must be borne in mind that *Gelseminum* is narcotic. Some division of opinion exists as to whether the *Gelseminum* has a narcotic property. We should think that a very slight experience would be sufficient to decide this question. When the patient is brought fully under its constitutional influence, the symptoms are so marked that we cannot conceive how the remedy should be deemed otherwise. On attempting to move about, the patient appears as if intoxicated; the muscles refuse to obey the mandates of the will, while the head is dizzy and the senses confused. In some respects the symptoms much resemble those produced by Stramonium, and in like manner pass off as soon as the remedy is discontinued; at other times the patient appears as if under the influence of Alcohol, and evinces a decided disinclination to motion, and tendency to sleep, from which he awakes invigorated and refreshed." (*Dr. Coe.*)

Whether it is a narcotic, is not yet satisfactorily established. (*Dr. King.*)

CLINICAL REMARKS. That *Gelseminum* is homœopathic to *Coma*, from congestion of the brain, or apoplectic effusion, we have the proof of actual observation on animals. It is in those comatose states caused by cerebral congestions that we shall find it a valuable remedy. I have called attention to its usefulness in the stupor attending the fevers of children. [Infantile remittents.]

It will be equally useful in the stupor of typhus cereбрalis, or any form of typhoid, when *Coma* is a prominent symptom, and the other symptoms correspond. It may also be beneficial in the low delirium of typhoid fever. When used for the above, the low dilutions are advised.

In that peculiar stupor, or drowsiness, felt by students and persons of sedentary habits, especially in hot weather, and *not* caused by hepatic torpor, this remedy in small doses, continued for many days, is as capable of affording relief as any drug I have ever used. When depending on hepatic derangements, it is removed by *Podophyllum*, *Leptandria*, or *Nux Vomica*.

In *Delirium tremens*, or morbid wakefulness of drunkards, large doses, (5 or 10 drops) of the tincture, repeated as often as necessary, will be found as useful as opium, in *some* cases, and more efficient in others.

No remedy so happily controls the sleeplessness and agitation of teething children, students, persons laboring under mental excitement, or hysteric females. The first dilution will usually suffice.

GENERAL SYMPTOMS.

Weakness and trembling throughout the entire system; listless and languid; great lassitude; *feeling of lightness in the body*; fear of falling; easily fatigued; general feeling of illness as in fever, so prostrated that he can neither move hand nor foot; no power over any

muscle; strange, indescribable feeling throughout the entire system.

CLINICAL REMARKS. The only symptom in the above which we need to notice in this place is the one in *italics*. It very frequently appears in persons suffering from *spinal exhaustion*, particularly when caused by *onanism*. This fact I have observed in several cases. A very few other remedies in our *Materia Medica* have this symptom.

The general symptoms of *Gelsemium* can be arranged in a more practical manner—in such a way as to give a clear idea of the general sphere of action; its primary and secondary effects, and as a guide to the selection of the dose.

In the following parallel columns will be found as clear an exposition of its general effects, as the state of our present knowledge of the remedy permits us to possess, as well as its analogues in the various conditions which it is capable of producing:

Primary Symptoms,	Secondary Symptoms,
AND	AND
PATHOLOGICAL STATES	PATHOLOGICAL STATES
Caused by GELSEMINUM, and in which should be used the dilutions from the 1st upward.	Caused by GELSEMINUM, and in which should be used the first dilutions and drop doses of the pure mother tincture.
General Muscular prostration, with weakness or paralysis of the nerves of motion. (<i>Chloroform, Alcohol, Lobelia, Aconite, Nux vomica, &c.</i>)	Muscular debility with an irritable condition of the motor nerves, and consequent cramps, jactitations, &c. (<i>Aconite, Scutellaria, Macrotin, China, Hyoscyamus, Agaricus, Belladonna, Stramonium.</i>)
Intense passive Congestion of the anterior or motor portion of the spinal column, with general absence of severe pain, from partial torpor of the nerves of sensation. (<i>Nux vomica, Aconite, Chloroform, Veratrum viride, Macrotin.</i>)	Active congestion of the posterior or sensory portion of the spinal cord. (<i>Aconite, Macrotin, Nux vomica, Ignatia, Chloroform, Alcohol.</i>)
Intense passive congestion of the brain, resulting in local irritation with exudation of blood. (<i>Aconite, Veratrum viride, Chloroform, Macrotin.</i>)	A debilitated or paralyzed state of the great sympathetic nerve, causing active hyperæmia, heat and pain. (<i>Aconite, Veratrum viride, Tobacco, Digitalis, Macrotin.</i>)
Passive congestion of the thoracic and abdominal viscera, probably from paralysis of the respiratory nerves. (<i>Aconite, Veratrum viride, Opium.</i>)	Active cerebral congestion with extravasation of blood or hyperæmia of the membranes. (<i>Belladonna, Glonoin, Agaricus, Opium, Stramonium.</i>)
Dimness of sight, double vision, and dilated pupil, from passive congestion and paralysis. (<i>Belladonna, Chloroform, Spigelia, Hyoscyamus, Stramonium, Macrotin.</i>)	Active hyperæmia of the thoracic and abdominal viscera—the reaction from previous depression. (<i>Tartar emetic, Ipecacuanha, Lobelia.</i>)
A general condition of nervous depression, with trembling, anxiety, cool moist skin, profuse urine, and physical debility. (<i>Digitalis, Aconite, Macrotin, Ignatia, Pulsatilla, Camphor.</i>)	Some photophobia, blindness, illusions of sight and contracted pupils from active congestion. (<i>Aconite, Opium.</i>)
	General nervous erethism, or hyperæsthesia, with weakness, of all the vital forces; a kind of nervous fever. (<i>Chamomilla, Coffea, Hyoscyamus, Cannabis indica, Phosphorus, Nux vomica, Macrotin, Scutellaria, Cypripedium.</i>)

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*In which GELSEMINUM has been employed and recommended
in this work by physicians of all schools.*

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